

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & Hammersmith CHRONICLE



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Thursday, December 10th 2015

Calls to abandon shake-up of health services

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

NHS chiefs have been urged to scrap a controversial shake-up of health services affecting Hammersmith and Fulham.

Michael Mansfield QC, chair of the independent commission set up to investigate the NHS action plan in north west London, said the measures were "deeply flawed" and should act as a "warning call to the top of government".

The commission, which was set up by an alliance of council leaders last year, published its long-awaited report last week. It found a "catalogue of failings, missed opportunities and

profligacy" in the Shaping a Healthier Future programme introduced by local health commissioners.

The report follows controversy over the closure of the accident and emergency department at Hammersmith Hospital and "downgrading" of services at Charing Cross Hospital.

Health bosses rejected the report's criticism, stressing that the programme was already helping to ensure patients receive the "best possible care".

The commission also faced questions about its independence after Conservative critics warned that Labour-led councils had influenced the findings. Mr Mansfield said the report's findings were "stark" and suggested Hammersmith and Fulham

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■ COULD THIS BE LOVE? Pantomime audiences young and old are having a ball at the Lyric Hammersmith this month. Families are enjoying one of the season's most popular shows, *Cinderella*, where the magic between Krystal Dockery as Cinderella and Karl Queensborough as Prince Charming is proving a big hit. The panto also stars Sam Buttery, who is well known for being a contestant on BBC1's *The Voice*.
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CAPITAL PIONEERS SCHEME TO PROTECT CYCLISTS FROM HGV ACCIDENTS

London's no place for unsafe lorries

BIG lorries without safety equipment to protect cyclists and pedestrians are banned throughout Greater London from the start of this month under Britain's first Safer Lorry Scheme.

From now on, vehicles of more than 3.5 tonnes entering London must be fitted with sideguards to protect cyclists from being dragged under the wheels in the event of a collision, along with special mirrors to give the driver a better view of cyclists and pedestrians.

The Mayor, Boris Johnson, hailed the success of the scheme – which has already seen the vast majority of HGVs in London fitting the equipment as operators move to comply – and announced it would now go further.

The mayor said: "We are ahead of any other part of the UK in closing the legal loopholes that allowed many HGVs to operate without basic safety equipment, and I am delighted that over the 18 months since we announced the Safer Lorry Scheme the vast majority of operators have got the message and fitted safety equipment to



FROM THE
MAYOR'S OFFICE

their vehicles in anticipation of the ban.

"We have, from December 1, begun vigorous enforcement action against the laggards. A very disproportionate share of cyclist deaths and serious injuries are caused by lorries, and this scheme will undoubtedly save lives.

"But this big step forward is only one element of my work to protect cyclists and pedestrians from lorries. I announce here that I propose to require

further safety modifications to all HGVs in London, including the retrofitting of bigger side windows to further reduce the driver blind spots that contribute to so many tragic accidents."

Bigger side windows, in the lower panel of the cab door, give the driver direct vision of any cyclist who may be alongside them, and can be fitted to most lorries for around £1,000.

In January the mayor will consult on the principle of the scheme and the best way to enforce the new windows – whether through the Safer Lorry Scheme, the Low Emission Zone regulations or changes to the congestion charge. This consultation will be complete and a decision taken before the mayoral election. In parallel, work will be done with cycling groups, vehicle manufacturers and the freight industry to develop a technical 'direct vision standard' so the windows are legally enforceable. It is hoped to have this work completed by March or April.

In the meantime, as soon as the work can be physically completed, it will be

ensured that such windows are fitted to all vehicles undertaking work for TfL, Crossrail, or any other member of the Greater London Authority family.

Extensive trials are also now being undertaken at the Transport Research Laboratory of a variety of electronic sensors for lorries, aiming to alert drivers to cyclists' presence. If it is shown that any of these devices offers significant and consistent benefits, it may also be required for them to be fitted to lorries in London.

Many of the most dangerous vehicles are construction-related. For future major construction projects, GLA planning powers will be used to strictly prescribe the routes which HGVs serving them can follow – requiring, for instance, that they avoid a road heavily used by cyclists or take a route that minimises the number of left turns, the most dangerous manoeuvre. Discussions with the London boroughs and the construction industry have already started to ensure that this happens as fast as possible.

The Safer Lorry Scheme introduced this month, developed with London Councils, covers every road in Greater London, except motorways, and will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It will be enforced by the police, the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency and the joint Transport for London and Department for Transport-funded Industrial HGV Taskforce.

The maximum fine for each breach of the ban will be £1,000. Repeat offenders may also be referred to the relevant Traffic Commissioner, who is responsible for the licensing and regulation of HGV operators.

HGVs are disproportionately represented in cyclist fatalities in the capital. Of the eight deaths reported in London so far this year, seven have involved HGVs.

The Safer Lorry Scheme is part of the Mayor's £913 million Vision for Cycling, which includes new segregated superhighways, safer junctions, and backstreet Quietway routes.



The London Weekly News Group Westminster & Pimlico News

(Established 1857)

Kensington & Chelsea News

(Established 1857 & 1869)

Fulham Chronicle

(Established 1888)

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(Established 2015)

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(Established 2015)

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(Established 2014)

CHAIRMAN

Sir Ray Tindle

VICE-CHAIRMAN

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JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS

Karen Sheppard

0208 768 4903

Philip Evans (Editor)

07796 951991

Editorial email:

editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

News Editor Geoff Baker 07864 992274

Reporter Jack Dixon 07973 565078

Sport - Tony MacDonald 07711 169427

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NEWS FROM HAMMERSMITH

LWN

Mansfield report 'a watershed moment'

FROM PAGE 1

council should consider legal action to stop the NHS programme.

He said: "At the very core of any decent civil society is the imperative to ensure that the individuals and communities who make up that society have sustainable access to good quality healthcare.

"The findings of the commission demonstrate that the reforms, both proposed and implemented thus far, are deeply flawed. Therefore, any further implementation is likely to exacerbate a deteriorating situation and should be halted immediately until the measures we recommend are carried out."

The commission's report concluded that:

- there is no up-to-date business plan for the programme
- public consultation was limited and inadequate
- the £1bn cost of the programme is a waste of public resources
- important facilities have been closed without adequate alternative provision
- the increasing population of north west London has been underestimated.

A spokesperson for NHS North West London said the programme had already improved access to GPs for more than a million people and that more services were being offered closer to home.

"Part of the improvement plan includes additional investment to modernise and increase capacity in our hospitals and community sites," the spokesperson said.

"This will help the NHS provide the best possible care to our local communi-



■ **CONCERNS:** Michael Mansfield QC outlines the conclusions of a report into health service changes.

ties. These plans, which align with the national strategy for the NHS, were drawn up by clinicians and were subject to full public consultation and reviews by independent experts."

Hammersmith and Fulham council set up the healthcare commission last year, alongside neighbouring boroughs Ealing, Brent and Hounslow.

Several evidence hearings were heard over the last 12 months, as commission-

ers questioned clinical commissioning groups, NHS trusts and health professionals, as well as patients and service users. It now recommends that the council should consider a judicial review if NHS chiefs do not stop the programme immediately.

Speaking at the report's launch at the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday, the leader of Hammersmith and Fulham council Stephen Cowan said: "Today's

report from Michael Mansfield QC is a watershed moment.

"Rigorous, thorough, detailed and rightly independent, the review provides indisputable evidence that these changes to local health services are badly planned, hugely costly and causing life-threatening failures in local healthcare."

Councillor Cowan added: "The only sane decision is to put a halt to them right now."

Europe endorses obesity initiative

A PROGRAMME set up to tackle childhood obesity in Hammersmith and Fulham has been recognised by European partners.

The borough council's scheme is now part of an international network of programmes working to help children stay in shape.

Links to other projects will enable the council to benefit from shared knowledge and new research.

Councillor Vivienne Lukey, the council's cabinet member for health, said: "Improving the health and wellbeing of our children is a priority for us and we want to make sure any work we do in this area is on the best available information."

Marketing kings

BUSINESS group HammersmithLondon has won the Best Marketing prize at the West London Business Awards for its work on this year's summer festival.

Judges praised the local business improvement district (BID) for helping to drive the economy forward by increasing footfall in the town centre.

Around 8,500 people attended the festival's free events, which included live theatre in Lyric Square and Wimbledon tennis matches televised on a big screen.

Funding campaign so Mia can play too

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A HAMMERSMITH mum is on a fundraising mission to equip her local park with a wheelchair access swing for her disabled daughter.

Hayley Wedgbury says the limited facilities at Wormholt Park make it hard for eight-year-old Mia, who has cerebral palsy, to mix with other children.

She is now stepping up her own campaign for a wheelchair-accessible swing to be included in the park's planned redevelopment project.

Her aim is to raise £14,000 to cover the cost and installation of the swing, with Hammersmith and Fulham council having pledged to match whatever can be mustered in donations.

Hayley said: "Mia loves to play and loves to interact with other children, so it was pretty disheartening walking through the parks in the weekends and school holidays as all the mainstream activities are not accessible to wheelchairs. We would be on the sidelines watching other children play.

"When she visits accessible parks she is absolutely in her element."



■ **PLAYGROUND APPEAL:** Hayley Wedgbury and daughter Mia.

Hayley, who has lived in the borough for the last 12 years, first contacted local support group Parents Active, which helps families with disabled children. She has since been in touch with the council's parks team about the shortage of inclusive play equipment.

Her crowdfunding page has already raised around £3,000 towards the target but she hopes others will continue to donate over the next few weeks.

She added: "Getting the swing installed would just mean the opportunity to go out and know where we are going and know we are feeling welcomed.

"If you are not catered for it is hard to feel welcomed in a community."

Hammersmith and Fulham council said it would chip in with funding to support the campaign.

Councillor Sue Fennimore, cabinet member for social inclusion, said: "It is only right that disabled children should be able to experience the same joy from our playground facilities as every other child.

"Along with the new wheelchair-accessible roundabout in Ravenscourt Park, it underlines our commitment to being inclusive."

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Political call to youngsters

HAMMERSMITH and Fulham's youth parliament representative has urged more young people to take an interest in politics.

Rahima Begum, 18, who is also a member of the borough's youth council, spoke in the House of Commons recently during a debate setting out the parliament's manifesto for 2016.

"I think it's so important for young people to get involved in politics," she said. "Everyone should know there is a youth parliament and a local youth council. These issues affect us all."

Working to combat racism and religious discrimination was chosen as the parliament's national campaign.

Gardens grow on the judges

GREEN-FINGERED gardeners at Sycamore House in Hammersmith are celebrating after their gardens were declared the best in the capital.

The green space behind the sheltered housing in Sycamore Gardens won the trophy for the best almshouse community garden in this year's London Garden Society awards.

Expert judges praised the colour, artistry and plant health of the gardens.

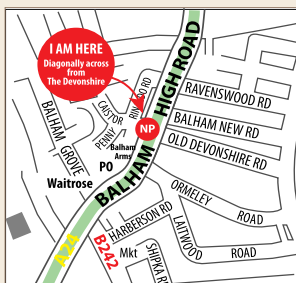


■ **HARD AT WORK:** More than 100 teenagers were put in charge of Hammersmith Town Hall for a day as the borough council opened up its offices for the annual 'youth takeover'. Students from 10 different schools took part in the event, which gave youngsters an insight into the work of librarians, social services staff and parks police, among many others. This year's 'takeover' was the biggest ever organised by Hammersmith and Fulham council, with around 120 13-19-year-olds taking part.

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Prison for conmen who stole bicycles valued at £60,000

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TWO men who were involved in the theft of 23 bicycles in a long-running scam operation have been jailed.

Tariq Hasi, 24, of Cambridge Grove in Hammersmith, and Issa Naijar, 26, of Aisgill Avenue in Fulham, were sentenced last month.

The pair targeted online sellers by arranging to purchase their bicycles and agreeing to meet in person.

At the meeting Naijar or Hasi would ask to take the bike for a test ride, leaving behind a laptop bag containing old books. Met investigators say the total value of the stolen bikes was around £60,000.

The men were arrested in March last year by West Midlands Police after being stopped in a van containing high-value cycle frames and parts.

The items were identified as being stolen from victims in

Hertfordshire and Surrey. Further investigations found that Naijar and Hasi had been involved in 17 cases in London and another nine in surrounding areas.

Detective Chief Inspector John Oldham, of the Roads and Transport Policing Command, said: "These men were organised criminals who were involved in a large-scale conspiracy to steal bicycles from people selling them online."

"We are determined to bring cycle thieves to justice and by disrupting large-scale criminal activity like this, we can continue to reduce cycle theft across London."

The two men were charged with conspiracy to steal in December last year and sentenced at Isleworth Crown Court on Monday, November 16. Naijar was given two years and three months in prison, while Hasi received a two-year sentence.

Steve Burton, director of enforcement and on-street enforcement at Transport for London, said: "Tackling cycle theft plays an important part in achieving the mayor's ambition to get more people cycling."

"We, alongside our policing partners, are committed to improving cycle security in the capital and will push for the toughest penalties possible for those caught stealing."

Runway argument 'weakens'

THE case for a third runway at Heathrow airport is getting "weaker and weaker each day", according to Hammersmith MP Andy Slaughter.

The Shadow Justice Minister said more than 725,000 people were currently affected by noise pollution from Heathrow and that the problem would get worse if an extra runway was built. Earlier this year, the Howard Davies Commission, set up to investigate airport expansion options, advised the government to approve a third runway at Heathrow.

LONDON WIDE

LWN

Transport bosses accelerate plans to reduce traffic jams

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

NEW measures are being introduced in a bid to minimise disruption on London's roads while major work to improve the network continues.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson MP, tasked Transport for London with developing new ways to ease congestion while they transform the capital's roads through the £4billion Road Modernisation Plan.

Last week he visited TfL's Traffic Control Centre to see for himself the work that is keeping the capital's roads moving. The innovations include:

■ **Trials of new technology** – for the first time on the TfL road network a new generation of digital road signs will provide people with real-time information on journeys using major routes into London.

The signs will initially be trialled on the A12, A13 and A40. TfL is also trialling a new operating system of temporary traffic lights that can be remotely controlled from TfL's traffic control centre. This will mean the phasing of traffic lights can be changed quickly and efficiently by staff at the control centre to improve traffic flow and cut delays through road-work areas.

■ **A London 2012 Games-style 24/7 communication campaign** – each day TfL keeps its 450,000 @tfltrafficnews followers and website users up-to-date with the very latest traffic information and the calendar of works being carried out so people can plan ahead.

Now four years old, the account is one of the most followers traffic news accounts in the world, with more followers than all Highways England travel feeds combined. The website has also recently been updated with a rainbow-board to alert people to delays on key arterial roads, as well as have detailed maps with anticipated disruption for the coming months, particularly during peak hours.

The predicted traffic impact of works is also clearly highlighted to residents and businesses through maps and leaflets, while companies can search on a postcode-by-postcode basis to ensure that any potential delays are factored into their planning of deliveries.

■ **Expanding the use of road junction technology**, including the world-leading 'Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique' (SCOOT) to optimise traffic light timings in outer London.

The introduction of SCOOT has proven to reduce delays by



■ **MOVING STORY:** Transport for London has announced new measures to reduce congestion.

up to 12 per cent at each junction where it has been installed. By May 2016, almost 4,000 sites will be using this technology across London – double the number since the Mayor came to power in May 2008. By 2018, more than three-quarters of London's 6000 junctions will be upgraded with SCOOT, helping to manage and reduce congestion.

■ **Working with sat-nav companies** – the Mayor and TfL are encouraging firms to take advantage of the latest technology by using TfL's extensive data feeds to update sat-navs so motorists can be provided with real-time TfL information as they drive, ensuring they can take the most appropriate routes.

These pioneering measures are being developed to accompany existing ongoing work to ease congestion, including:

■ **Dynamically managing London's road network using the 24/7 traffic control centre** – the team manages traffic 24 hour a day, utilising state of the art technology to ensure junctions and routes are managed effectively in real-time.

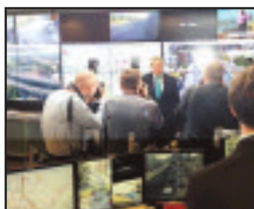
■ **Managing incidents and congestion hot spots through the Roads Policing Units** – targeted police enforcement is carried out at the busiest locations and known hotspots to boost safety for all road users and reduce delays.

■ **Working with the freight industry to retime deliveries to avoid the busiest times** – an online road impact tool allows freight operators to see works up to 12 months ahead to understand the impact for each set of works. With 90 per cent of goods moved around London by road, TfL also continues to provide tailored advice to

boroughs, operators, businesses and others to help them re-time deliveries to occur outside the peak times of 07:00-13:00 or routing them away from the busiest locations.

■ **A 'Lane Rental scheme' which targets roadworks at the busiest locations and busiest times.** It is already seeing over 90 per cent of work carried out during quieter periods – massively reducing disruption.

All surplus money raised through the Lane Rental scheme is reinvested into measures to further reduce the disruption. These include the trials of the temporary traffic signals announced today, new Automatic Roadwork Monitoring cameras to allow TfL to better determine whether work is taking place and better use of rapid cure reinstatement materials to help reopen roads quicker, sig-



■ **NERVE CENTRE:** Mayor Boris Johnson in the TfL traffic control centre last week.

nificantly reducing traffic disruption.

Mr Johnson said: "Each day 80 per cent of trips in the capital take place on the roads and TfL is pulling out all the stops to help make those journeys as efficient as they can be. A growing population and a strong economy mean that keeping pace with the rising expectations of all road users in a great city like ours is always

going to be a challenge.

"However, with the biggest investment in a generation and making savvy use of new technology we're working to deliver a more intelligent network that works better for everyone. Tackling congestion is a key part of the plan to improve the efficiency, safety and reliability of the roads. This will in turn help us to deliver world class urban realm, better cycling and pedestrian facilities and ensuring that our road network is fit for purpose in the 21st century."

With improvement works planned until 2021/22, TfL says that its Road Modernisation Plan includes hundreds of projects to improve the streets as the capital grows in size.

It says: "Across London, improvements are being delivered day and night as new cycle routes are created, traffic signals, pavements and highways are upgraded; new public spaces are made; and junctions are re-designed to make them safer."

The current phase of improvements has hit the half way point, and with the summer period now over Londoners are being thanked for their continued patience with more work due to start.

Benefits of the work are already being delivered with the radical redesign of the northern Elephant & Castle roundabout to a new peninsula with two-way traffic; and segregated cycle superhighways, with improved junctions, to separate cyclists from traffic on Vauxhall Bridge and Whitechapel. Further projects include major refurbishment work to the Hammersmith Flyover, Fore Street Tunnel and Chiswick Bridge.

In the coming weeks, major

improvement work will begin to redesign Stockwell Gyratory with segregated cycle lanes and more public space; and deliver pedestrian improvements and public space at Bow Roundabout.

By summer 2016 work on both substantially segregated East-West and North-South Cycle Superhighways will be completed, as well as the major redesign of junctions such as Stockwell, Oval and Apex Junction in Shoreditch to make them safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

TfL is also looking at long-term measures to tackle road congestion in the coming decades. In January, it will host an extensive exhibition outlining the latest plans for strategic measures to tackle congestion and cleaning London's air. This will include plans for new tunnels and fly-unders that open new areas up for redevelopment, as well as measures to help keep freight deliveries serving the capital while also reducing congestion at peak-times.

Garrett Emmerson, Chief Operating Officer of Surface Transport at TfL, said: "When we began work to deliver these improvements earlier this year, we promised to do everything possible to keep London working and moving. Work is already completed on Chiswick Bridge, the Hammersmith Flyover and the first sections of the North-South Cycle Superhighway will be opening in the next few weeks. But there is a lot more to do yet, and we're asking all road users to bear with us whilst we complete these important projects."

"Just as we did during the London 2012 Games, we're working around the clock to innovate, plan and co-ordinate all our work to best manage the road network. By providing accurate, timely and detailed information to all, we'll continue to ensure Londoners, businesses and road users can plan ahead to avoid the hotspots and minimise disruption."

To help Londoners plan for the delivery of the Road Modernisation Plan, TfL has undertaken a massive programme of communication and stakeholder engagement, designed to provide everyone affected with the detailed information they need – including maps, leaflets and online resources – to plan their journeys and avoid delays. Businesses can also search on a postcode-by-postcode basis to ensure that any potential delays are factored into delivery route planning.

■ **For detailed information on the impact on central London and to see the range of travel advice and planning tools available, follow @tfltrafficnews or visit www.tfl.gov.uk/roadtraveladvice**

Museum bid's legal victory

THE French government has lost a High Court action it brought in an attempt to block the founder of Foxtons estate agents from completing the building of a West London mega-basement he intends to turn into a museum for his collection of vintage cars.

It is reported that Jon Hunt and his wife have already started work at their Grade II listed mansion at 10, Kensington Palace Gardens – the former Soviet Mission which is next door to the French embassy in Kensington.

According to the Planning Resource website, they were first granted planning permission and listed building consent in 2008, and a smaller scheme was given listed building consent in 2010.

In 2011, the freehold owners Crown Estates granted a limited licence to allow certain works of excavation to go ahead.

At a recent hearing before a judge at the High Court, the French government challenged the validity of certificates of lawfulness granted by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea last April to allow completion of the property tycoon's project.

Mr Robert Griffiths QC, appearing for the French authorities, had argued that the listed building and lawful development certificates were both flawed for a number of reasons and should be quashed.

But last month Mr Justice Holgate, sitting in London, announced that he had dismissed the application to quash the certificates.

Paul Brown QC, for the Hunts, told the judge at the hearing of the case earlier in November: "They are acting lawfully. They have permission."

The French authorities had taken legal action, he said, because "they don't want (Mr Hunt) to complete the basement".

Night Tube negotiations

TALKS between union leaders and Transport for London bosses are under way in a bid to resolve issues blocking progress with the Night Tube.

London Underground bosses are reported to have said they would recruit part-time staff to help with the proposed Night Tube shifts along with pay changes.

The updated offer included an extension of the three-year pay rise offer to four years.

All staff on the Night Tube lines, Victoria, Central, Northern, Piccadilly and Jubilee, were also reported to have been offered an additional £500 bonus.

Memorial for victims

A GARDEN space created in memory of the victims of domestic violence is now open on the Lillington and Longmoore Gardens Estate in Pimlico.

Councillor Nickie Aiken, who declared the poignant feature officially open, said: "In September we launched the ground-breaking Angelou Partnership. This partnership brings together nine organisations – from FGM specialists, to domestic abuse services for the BME and LBTT community under one service."



■ **YOU SHALL GO TO THE BALL:** Audiences are being thrilled by the seasonal entertainment provided by the pantomime *Cinderella* at the Lyric Hammersmith. Above and right: Buttons (Sam Buttery) and the Young Ensemble. Left: Peter Caulfield as Licious and Matt Sutton as Booty. Bottom: Karl Queensborough as Prince Charming and Young Ensemble. Read *London Weekly News* theatre critic Nicky Sweetland's review on Page 21
Pictures: Tristram Kenton



Bridge project seeks backers

LONDON could get a £90 million bridge over the River Thames between Canary Wharf and Rotherhithe – if the scheme can attract sufficient investment.

Reports say it will be designed by reForm Architects and will have a central span of 184 metres, with ramps rising from each bank. Plans include building two five-metre-wide decks to provide separate routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

Nik Randall of reForm Architects, said: "Our work has demonstrated that whilst other opening bridge types present problems for this location, it is possible to design a bridge that meets these challenges with an elegant, welcoming and unique structure."

"Our design [will respond to the significance of its setting], creating an internationally recognisable landmark. Its unique and elegant form and operation will become an attraction for visitors. It will enhance the views along and across the Thames, providing scale and interest in the way that the ships on the river itself do."

London Mayor Boris Johnson is reported to have tweeted that he "loves the scheme".

The architects are now looking for private investors for their project.

Big idea for an advent calendar

CHRISTMAS shoppers and excited children will have no excuse for losing track of time in the countdown to the big day in West London – a giant advent calendar on an LED screen at Marble Arch will tell them exactly how many days there are left to go.

The calendar, believed to be the biggest in Europe, links the retail district of Oxford Street with the Winter Wonderland attraction in Hyde Park. It has been set up thanks to a partnership between Westminster City Council and hi-tech giants Samsung.

The landmark feature will also display a New Year countdown following the Christmas countdown.

Cllr Robert Davis, deputy leader of Westminster City Council, said:

"Westminster loves Christmas – and the millions of people that come to the city do as well."

"We have fairs in Leicester Square, lights on Oxford Street and our world-famous Norwegian Spruce in Trafalgar Square – so we wanted to extend the festive cheer even further by hosting an advent calendar at Marble Arch."

"It is an exciting project and we hope residents, businesses and visitors enjoy the display."

Lifeboat crew rescues rowers

A LIFEBOAT crew rescued two rowers from the River Thames after their boat capsized last week.

Reports said the pair were tipped into the water when one of their oars struck a navigation buoy near Strand on the Green on Tuesday morning, December 1.

A resident spotted the oarsmen and dialled 999. The coastguard sent Chiswick RNLI lifeboat crew to the scene. The two men were able to get to the riverbank and the RNLI team arrived minutes later and gave them blankets. The four-person volunteer crew included actress Holly Jackson Walters who was a drama student at Goldsmiths College, where one of the rescued rowers is a student.

The team also recovered the craft onto the lifeboat and returned the scullers and their rowing boat back to Putney Town Rowing Club.

Alzheimer's trial seeks volunteers

A TRIAL into a promising treatment for Alzheimer's disease is looking for participants in London.

The drug, called liraglutide, is already used for the treatment of diabetes and has shown promising results in laboratory tests for Alzheimer's and in a small preliminary study in people with the condition. The trial is funded by a number of organisations, including Alzheimer's Society and Imperial College, with support from other charities, pharmaceutical companies and the NHS.

Evidence suggests that there is a strong link between type 2 diabetes and development of Alzheimer's disease.

Diabetes occurs when cells in the body cannot properly process a sugar known as glucose. It is thought that in Alzheimer's disease, brain cells cannot use glucose properly, which may stop the cells from being able to function.

Volunteers in the trial will take the drug liraglutide or a placebo drug for a year. The researchers will use a variety of brain scans and memory tests to see the effect of liraglutide on the brain function and memory.

The current treatments available for Alzheimer's alleviate the symptoms for a while but do not treat the underlying causes of the disease. It's been over a decade since the last Alzheimer's treat-

ment was approved for use. The advantage of testing an already-licensed drug as a dementia treatment is that the drug has already passed many of the required safety tests. This means that if the drug is shown to benefit people affected by dementia, it can be brought to those who need it sooner.

The trial is being led by Dr Paul Edison of Imperial College London.

He said: "We are asking people who have mild Alzheimer's disease to take part in this trial to find out whether liraglutide has any effect on the condition. Volunteering to take part in trials is a vital aspect of research and we very much appreciate the time and effort that

our participants have put into this study already. The more people that take part, the quicker we will understand the potential effects that this drug may have on Alzheimer's disease."

If you are interested in taking part in the study, please contact the team at 0208 383 3704 or 0208 383 1969 or e-mail: memory@imperial.ac.uk

If you are interested in taking part in dementia research studies – whether it is just filling in a questionnaire or participating in a full scale trial such as this one – you can sign up to Join Dementia Research. This will match you to suitable studies in your area. Visit www.alzheimers.org.uk/joindementiaresearch

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Salute to the street's stars



Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Portobello & Golborne Market in Notting Hill For full details go to the website
www.shopportobello.co.uk
 Supported by The Portobello & Golborne Management Committee

BY GEOFF BAKER
 geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A PREDICTED 40 million shoppers will descend on Oxford Street for an estimated combined spend of more than £2.3 billion in Christmas shopping this year.

And to celebrate the festive season, London's most famous shopping destination is shining a light on what it calls its Retail Stars, the people behind the famous brands who serve the street's shoppers this Christmas.

"From customer service veterans with decades of store-front experience, to dynamic up-and-comers who have risen quickly through their company ranks, this year's Retail Stars shine at our most iconic shopping destination," said a spokesman for the Oxford Street Association.

Boasting almost 100 years of combined retail experience and exceptional customer service are the **Oxford Street Years-of-Service Stars** –

■ **Egbert Barbier**, stock movement supervisor, **Debenhams** – Ensuring that all of Debenhams' products hit the sales floor and are accounted for year-round, Egbert has been a key member of Debenhams' stock movement team for the past 32 years.

■ **Munasinghe She**, customer assistant, **Boots** – Loyal to Boots for more than

three decades, Munasinghe has delivered exceptional service to customers in various Boots stores for more than 35 years. Munasinghe was in Sedley Place in 2005 when Boots opened its Oxford Street store – she is now gearing up for her 10th Christmas serving customers at the store.

Family-footsteps Retail Stars – sprinkled along Oxford Street are also a number of second and third generation Retail Stars following in their families' footsteps:

■ **Zack Stone**, managing director, **Steven Stone** – Grandson of Steven Stone founder Al Stone. Zack spearheads the expansion of his family's 78-year-old jewellery brand as managing director of Steven Stone's newly launched London store at St Christopher's Place. In addition, Zack heads up the company's Hale showroom and recent expansion into the US via its Palm Beach showroom.

■ **Claire Constantine**, manager, **Lush** – Daughter of Lush cosmetics co-founders Mark and Mo Constantine, Claire has spearheaded the planning and launch of Lush's flagship Oxford Street store. In addition to building and managing a team and delivering premium-level customer service, Claire has helped develop some of Lush's 200 exclusive Oxford Street products and will help Lush put a bath bomb in the water at least 23,808 times in December.

■ **Abigail Clapich**, sales manager, **Debenhams** – Abigail is following in her grandfather's retail footsteps, working her third Christmas on Oxford Street in the same store, where her grandfather supplied coats and ladies suits to the then Debenhams and Freebody in the late 1940s until the 1970s.

Unexpected Retail Stars – other unique Retail Stars behind Oxford Street's exceptional product and service offering include:

■ **Ming-Chau Nguyen**, senior sales advisor, **Miss Selfridge** – one of the unsung heroes of Miss Selfridge's festive fashion offering, Ming-Chau single-handedly processes 200 embellished party dresses per week, preparing for the busy Christmas party season.

■ **Isabella Rocha**, senior sales advisor, **River Island** – Championing Christmas cheer to River Island during the day, 19



■ **AT YOUR SERVICE:** Claire Constantine, manager of Lush, spearheaded the launch of the Lush store in Oxford Street.

year-old Isabella moonlights as a competitive national cheerleader by night. In between all of this, she finds time to pursue academic interests, undertaking a degree in Portuguese and Brazilian studies at Kings College.

■ **Tom Morely**, sales manager, **Debenhams** – Tom is your

quintessential British fellow, with a love of driving classic British motor cars.

However, Tom is the man who knows his cosmetics from his cars, as he proudly works behind the Debenhams cosmetic counter for his ninth Christmas after 15 years at Debenhams.

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School's tribute to Matilda

A REMARKABLE 10-year-old girl collected a very special prize at the British Dyslexia Association's Annual Dyslexia Awards recently.

Matilda McEwan, from Peterborough, won the Child Award, sponsored by Fairley House School, one of London's leading independent day schools for children with specific learning difficulties.

Before she attended the awards dinner in The Hall, at Gray's Inn, London, Matilda visited Fairley House School. There she met pupils who, like her, need special help to overcome their lost confidence because of dyslexia.

Matilda also met the headmaster, Michael Taylor, and

other staff, toured the school and took part in the school day. She then joined in one of the classes to experience the unique trans-disciplinary style that Fairley House follows.

On judging the Child Award – for young people aged 12 and under – Mr Taylor said: "Matilda is a wonderful example of how the right educational approach can overcome almost all barriers presented by dyslexia. Her story matches the ethos of our school and we're proud to be giving her this award. She is an outstanding ambassador for raising dyslexia awareness."

Fairley House senior school is based in Pimlico and its junior school in Lambeth Road.



■ **ACCOLADE:** Matilda McEwan, 10, receives her British Dyslexia Association award from Michael Taylor, headmaster of the award's sponsor, Fairley House School. The award was announced by Anthea Turner.

NEWS FROM KENSINGTON

LWN



UNDER THE WESTWAY



■ POSITIVE SUPPORT: Westway Trust has helped many groups with its community grants.

'Tis the season for grant giving

Angela McConville, Chief Executive of Westway Trust, launches the second round of the Community Grants funding programme

IN January we are making a second round of grant funds available as part of the Community Grants programme to small community organisations to celebrate the culture and heritage of the area, support a diverse range of local talent, improve community health and well-being and increase economic well-being.

This investment is in addition to the tens of thousands of pounds we distributed earlier this year, building on our commitment to supporting local organisations, projects and people to thrive.

This year we're offering grants of up to £2,500 each to small community organisations in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Grant making has always been an important part of our work at Westway Trust and one we plan to expand in the coming years.

The vast majority of our funding for grant making comes from the rent we get from commercial tenants on the estate.

A portion of that rental income is then distributed to an incredible collection of local organisations and charities.

The talent and potential of the local community is obvious to anyone who spends any time

here and often what's needed is simply some funding to help that potential to be realised. Many of the grants we made last year are already bearing fruit.

Young black women trained in dance and choreography are given a platform to showcase their own original works by one of the organisations we made a grant to last year.

Another is running art classes for children, including in carnival costume making and photography, serving the community's heritage and capturing the life and personalities of the area. A film from the Baraka Community Association is allowing young people from a refugee background, and their parents, to tell their stories to each other and to others.

Other projects are enabling people to engage with community activities they may otherwise be unable to access. One is encouraging men and women with depression to get involved in physical activity. Another is celebrating the International Year of Disabled People by showcasing the work of local disabled artists.

To reduce isolation of some ethnic minority women in the community a project is removing barriers to fitness facilities. A community festival uses art, craft and workshops provided by local people to connect people with mental health services.

Intermission Youth Theatre, based at a local church, has already had great success making use of a grant from Westway Trust.

It gives young people an op-

portunity to create their own versions of Shakespeare plays.

The project not only gives those involved a showcase for their talents through professional runs of the plays they produce but also makes Shakespeare's work more relevant to other young people in the area.

Their latest production, *Rise and Fall*, a reworking of *Julius Caesar*, has been receiving rave reviews from audiences, with one saying it was "refreshing to see young aspiring actors from this generation making a difference" and another saying "I understood more about the play in two hours than at school."

We appreciate that our contribution is relatively small and that the organisations and projects we support already do a fantastic job at providing opportunities for people.

Nevertheless, we are proud to play our part in providing an extra funding boost, particularly in these austere times, to help organisations and projects to reach and provide opportunities to even more people.

The window for applications for the next round of funding is open in January and I hope that once again we are able to support a variety of projects.

Anyone who is interested should visit www.westway.org where they will find information about how to apply.

In the following round we hope to introduce a bigger funding pot and larger grants to support longer term projects and new cultural events that harness the heritage, creativity and diversity of the area.

Charity carols

WITH the generous support of residents, local businesses, celebrity readers and pupils from a local school, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Mayor, Councillor Robert Freeman, raised nearly £13,000 for his mayoral charity at a carol service held at Our Lady of Victories Church in Kensington on Thursday evening.

The mayor's charity is supporting lung cancer research at Royal Marsden and The Royal Brompton hospitals.

The packed congregation

heard poetry, prose and readings from the Bible given by Lady Ella Windsor, Penny Junior, Cerys Matthews, Andrew Pierce, Melanie McDonagh and Liz Arnold. Soprano Marie Macklin delighted the audience with a solo piece, accompanied on the piano by her husband, Timothy Teague (who also played the organ for the evening).

The church was filled with song from Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School's sixth form choir, which earned rapturous applause at the end of the service.

The evening was rounded-off

with mince pies donated by the Ivy Restaurant, which is soon to open a brasserie on Kensington High Street.

Guests at the service heard the medical directors of the Royal Marsden, Professor Martin Gore, and The Royal Brompton, Professor Tim Evans, speak of the advances in understanding lung cancer and finding ways to treat it.

Professor Gore said: "The door to finding new treatments is ajar and now is the time to push it open. That is why the financial support given by the Mayor's Charity has the power to make such a difference."

SHOP LOCAL FOR A CHANCE TO WIN FABULOUS PRIZES!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING PASSPORT

Collect stickers when you spend money at the 12 market stalls and 12 local shops listed here.

Entries submitted by 4pm on Friday 4 December will be eligible for an extra chance to win one of five **£20 shopping vouchers** on Small Business Saturday UK, **5 December 2015** at a prize draw at 11am in Tavistock Square W11.

All entries submitted by 5pm 24 December will be eligible to win one of **5 main prize packages** (worth at least £100 each) donated by the participating businesses. Main prize winners will be notified by email on 9 January 2015.

Visit these market stalls and local shops to collect stickers:

Golborne Deli
100 Golborne Road W10 5PS

Ola's Apron
Penny Market Afro-continental food stall

A Piece of History Vintage
china & home decor stall

Brocant
vintage interiors stall

Frankstylis
vintage fashion stall

Goldsmith Vintage
253 Portobello Road W11 1LR

Steve Ullathorne Photography
photographic art stall

Cafe Eve
281 Portobello Road, unit 15

The Chinese Tea Company
281 Portobello Road, unit 14

Danaqa
281 Portobello Road, unit 23

Nottii Hill Salon
281 Portobello Road, unit 19

Sapelle
281 Portobello Road, unit 7

Unora
281 Portobello Road, unit 23

Van der Brit
Vintage fashion stall (Friday & Saturday)

Jamon Jamon
paella stall

The Spice Shop
1 Blenheim Crescent W11 2EE

Cameras London
antiques stall (most days)

La Cave a Fromage
148-150 Portobello Road W11 2DZ

London International Silver Co
antiques stall (Saturday)

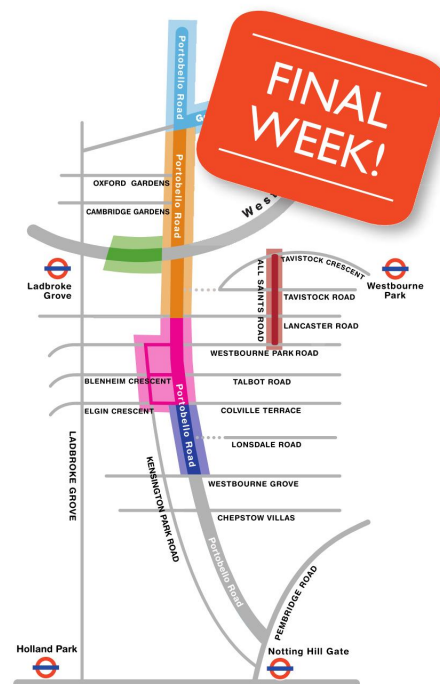
London Tree House toy shop
146 Portobello Road W11 2DZ

Portobello Cutlery
antiques stall (Saturday)

Simone Salandini
jewellery stall (Friday & Saturday)

Vintabellas
antique china stall (Friday & Saturday)

Book & Kitchen
31 All Saints Road W11 1HE



Use the map above to find your favourite participating shops and traders. The colour of each business corresponds to the colour on the map. Don't forget to get a sticker for every £5 you spend (limited to 2 stickers per business).

For full details please see www.rbkc.gov.uk





LONDON WIDE

New firm promises whatever you want in an instant

A NEW personal concierge business that promises to deliver busy Londoners anything from anywhere within central London has had customers making £30,000 orders with the 'I want it now' service.

Others are ordering Henchman's team to fetch them 99p cheeseburgers.

Henchman has a team of drivers based across the capital who promise they can collect any item – from exclusive restaurant dishes to fast food, from alcohol to last minute gifts, from concert tickets and emergency make-up to dry cleaning – and deliver to wherever they are required.

All orders are made through the app or online, and can be placed seven days a week, from 8am until midnight, and 1am on Fridays and Saturdays.

The service costs between £1.99 and £5.99, depending on where the order is from, plus 10 per cent of the value of whatever's ordered – and there is no minimum order.

And the delivery drivers themselves are set to become a focal point on London's streets, as each wears full uniform of striking black jacket, shirt and red tie – and always removes his helmet before making the delivery. The bikes, meanwhile, feature distinctive Henchman wings at the back.

Henchman has been trialling in parts



■ AT YOUR SERVICE: Two members of the Henchman delivery team.

of the capital over recent months – and its founders have been amazed at the varied uses customers are coming up with.

Co-founder and chief executive Ryan Perera said: "We say we can deliver anything, and we look forward to our customers putting that challenge to the test. My favourite deliveries so far include a fridge, which we delivered within 60 minutes of the order coming

in, cinema popcorn to people holding a movie night with friends at home, and more than a few hangover cures in the shape of beroccas, lemsips and chicken soups.

"We even had someone use Henchman on a sunny day whilst sitting in a restaurant in the City – the sun was shining in his eyes so he ordered a pair of Ray Bans that we delivered to his hands before his second pint.

"We're very excited at the way Londoners are already using us as their personal concierge service, with some early adopters already spending over £30,000 – while others are using Henchman to have their favourite 99p cheeseburgers delivered to them.

"Londoners just have to tell us what they need and their own personal Henchman will be at your service ready."

Rapper and football clubs offer 'work experience of a lifetime'

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

CHELSEA and Spurs football clubs have joined with chart-topping rapper Tinie Tempah in a drive to get young people to try for work experience in soccer and showbusiness.

Barclays LifeSkills is working with London football clubs to give young people the chance to apply for "the work experience of a lifetime" in sports and entertainment.

"The opportunities have been created for LifeSkills participants to inspire young people to believe that if they have a passion, as well as the drive and willingness to learn new skills, they can achieve their ambitions," said a Barclays spokesman.

The week-long positions will take place in February 2016 and have been created to provide behind-the-scenes work experience access at 16 Premier League clubs – including Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur – as well as entertainment organisations and venues including The O2, Shazam and the Barclaycard Arena.

The scheme is open to 18 to 24-year-olds who apply by signing up to LifeSkills and use the online CV Builder tool.

The campaign is backed by award-winning music artist and football fan Tinie Tempah, who stars in a 60-second

video on the Barclays Football Facebook page, and other social media channels, in which he urges young people to follow their passion for sport or entertainment by signing-up for the chance of a lifetime.

Tinie said: "I love what I do, so all of the dedication, determination and hard work it's taken to go from making music in my bedroom to where I am today has been worthwhile.

"I have been very lucky to have the advice and support of so many people throughout my career – and I wouldn't be where I am without that – so I see it as my responsibility to pass on what I have learnt and help young people realise that it's possible to work in the fields they are truly passionate about – they just need the discipline and most importantly the drive to take that first step.

"Through LifeSkills, the door is now open to the world of sport and entertainment but it's up to each individual to grab their opportunity.

"It's not all about the artist on stage at The O2 or the Barclays Premier League striker scoring in front of 60,000 fans. There's always an unbelievable team behind those people.

"So, if you've ever dreamt of being part of the action, make sure you apply for one of the place-

ments. It could be a first step on the path to an incredible career."

Kirstie Mackey, Head of LifeSkills, added: "LifeSkills is about inspiring young people and giving them the skills they need to take control of their own ambitions. Working alongside partners such as the Premier League, Shazam, The O2 and The Barclaycard Arena we're really excited to be able to offer these motivating and unique opportunities.

"These work placements have the potential to help young people from all backgrounds see what is available if you work hard and follow your passion – they just need to take that first step by signing up with LifeSkills.

"The campaign will be supported by a team of influential young YouTubers including Spencer FC, the F2 Freestylers, Hannah Triggwell and Sarah Close, who will

help engage young people by going behind-the-scenes within the sport and entertainment worlds to showcase the diversity of opportunities these industries can offer.

"Each You Tube star will produce a video providing a teaser into what the work experience placement will offer, encouraging young people to sign up in the process."

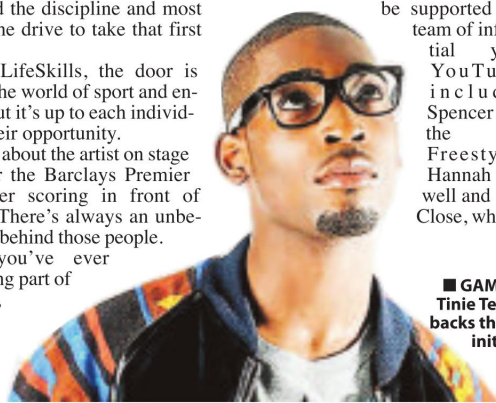
A host of Barclays Premier League clubs have signed up to the initiative including Chelsea, Manchester City, Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa, Newcastle United, Southampton and Leicester City.

They are offering opportunities to participants across marketing, coaching, administration, retail, hospitality and catering. All of the clubs will be supporting the scheme through in ground advertising, programme advertising and social media.

LifeSkills is a free, curriculum-lead programme developed to inspire young people to get the skills they need for a better future.

The LifeSkills CV Builder supports people through a simple step-by-step process to further populate their CV, providing helpful hints and tips along the way. It can also connect with a young person's Facebook and Twitter accounts to supercharge their CV.

To find out more about LifeSkills and to apply for work experience of a lifetime you can visit the website www.barclayslifeskills.com/dream-job



■ GAME ON! Tinie Tempah backs the new initiative

Rogue skin creams alert

THOUSANDS of image-conscious Londoners are risking their lives by continuing to use banned skin lightening creams that can seriously damage organs and cause cancer, according to London Trading Standards.

The capital's trading standards' association – which works with 33 local authorities – has renewed its health warnings to both the public and local traders about the damage such products can cause.

Steve Playle, from London Trading Standards, said: "Our teams have seized thousands of illegal products this year from hair and beauty salons and shops, highlighting the scale of the problem. Many of these products contain dangerously high levels of hydroquinone, mercury or steroids which can result in a host of problems from skin thinning and discoloration to organ damage and even cancer.

"It is an offence to distribute cosmetics which have not been tested and registered by their manufacturer or importer. These traders are not only playing with the lives of their customers, but they also face prosecution, fines of up to £20,000 and even the possibility of jail. Most of them know what they are doing is wrong as they hide the products under the counter or in stock cupboards."

In the past month, traders in Enfield and Southwark have been successfully prosecuted, with one receiving a suspended jail sentence and both being ordered to pay thousands of pounds in costs and fines. A number of other prosecutions are imminent.

The Cosmetic Product Enforcement Regulations 2013 make it an offence to distribute non-approved cosmetics. Traders are advised by London Trading Standards to check their stock has the required labelling, including an ingredients' list, EU name and address plus batch number.

Celebrity leads carol concert

TV PRESENTER and Alzheimer's Society ambassador Ruth Langford will host a dementia-friendly carol concert at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge to raise funds for Alzheimer's Society.

The special event, one of six being held across the country and Northern Ireland, will start from 7pm on Tuesday, December 15 and include festive readings from Sir Michael Parkinson, Sir Tony Robinson, Lesley Manville OBE and comedian Hugh Dennis. There will also be lively musical performances from leading chamber choir Vasari Singers and a performance from an Alzheimer's Society Singing for the Brain group from Wandsworth.

As part of Alzheimer's Society's commitment to creating Dementia Friendly Communities, all of the Carols by Candlelight events will be dementia-friendly, meaning that they will be fully supportive of all people with dementia in attendance through dementia-friendly signage, additional stewards on hand to guide people to seats and volunteers being briefed to ensure that they know some of the key things to look out for when working with someone with dementia.

Guests will be treated to mince pies and mulled wine in a post-concert reception. Visit www.alzheimers.org.uk/carols for tickets, call 0330 333 0804 or email carols@alzheimers.org.uk



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Joanna stars at annual tea dance

ACTRESS Joanna Lumley was the special guest at Westminster City Council's annual tea dance at the prestigious Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane.

A thousand guests from across the City of Westminster danced the afternoon away to music from The Red Stripe Band as well as enjoying dance performances and afternoon tea courtesy of Grosvenor House. The event took place on Sunday, November 29.

Ms Lumley chatted to guests throughout the afternoon and also presented a hamper, donated by Fortnum & Mason, to Evelyn, who at 99-years-old was the oldest guest at the event. Evelyn said: "I've had the most fabulous time. I only wish that I could get up and jitterbug too!"

Ms Lumley said: "There was dancing and jiving, eating and talking. So many smiles and so many people connecting. It's fantastic. Think of older people and remember them, love them and help them to join in."

The tea dance is hosted by councillor Christabel Flight, Lord Mayor of Westminster, who founded the event to help tackle loneliness amongst older people.

She said: "The tea dance is a chance for older people to get out of the house and enjoy a glamorous afternoon of dancing and

companionship. It's a great way for people to get together with friends, make new ones and have a fun afternoon. The volunteer police cadets were on hand to dance with those without a partner so everyone could join in.

"Loneliness can have a devastating effect on people's lives as well as their physical and mental wellbeing and we hope that the tea dance goes a little way in helping to alleviate it, even if just for an afternoon."

Martin Cobblah, 66, from Queen's Park, was one of the guests at the event and said: "Bringing people together creates community spirit for local people."

Bernadette McCarthy, 84, added: "When you live on your own you have no reason to dress up so events like this are important."

Henry Maguire, 72, said: "The most splendid generous festivity. I can't refrain from dancing! It makes me feel so terribly welcome."

The tea dance is supported by the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, a Westminster-based charity which works to tackle loneliness amongst older people; *The Daily Telegraph*; Grosvenor House, a JW Marriott Hotel and Shaftesbury.



■ **TEA TIME:** Joanna Lumley joins some of the 1,000 happy guests at the Westminster City Council annual tea dance, staged in spectacular surroundings at the Grosvenor House Hotel last month. Pictures by Nick Isden www.njphotography.com



■ **SPECIAL GUEST:** Joanna Lumley presents a hamper to the dance's oldest guest, 99-year-old Evelyn, pictured above right. Pictures by Nick Isden www.njphotography.com

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The queen of the forest, from Norway with love

THE countdown to Christmas in London has well and truly started – with the raising of the world's most famous Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square.

Each year since 1947, the 25-metre tree has been given to the people of London from the people of Norway in gratitude for Britain's support for Norway during the Second World War.

For people right across London and the UK, the Christmas tree and carol singing in Trafalgar Square signal that the countdown to Christmas has begun.

This year's Norwegian Spruce is 55 years old and was carefully chosen as a future Trafalgar tree 25 years ago, earning its nickname "the queen of the forest".

It was cut down in November in the forests surrounding Oslo by the Lord Mayor of Westminster and the mayor of Oslo. The tree then embarked on a 1,000-mile journey across the North Sea to central London. It was raised off the back of its truck



■ **SHE'S UP:** The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square.

using a hydraulic crane and then decorated in traditional Norwegian fashion, with 300m of lights – amounting to almost 770 energy-efficient light bulbs.

The tree was officially illuminated on Thursday, December 3. The Lord Mayor of Westminster hosted the ceremony with special guests including the mayor of Oslo and Norwegian and

British ambassadors, and the Deputy Mayor of London, Roger Evans.

Norwegian soprano Ann-Helen Moen sang *Silent Night* and the Children's Voices Choir and the Choir of St Martins-in-the-Fields also performed, with music provided by the Regent Hall Band of the Salvation Army. Three children from St Clement Danes Primary School read *The Secret Song of the Tree*, a poem by Ian McMillan grown from the ideas, images and lines of London primary schoolchildren. The event culminated in the switching on of the lights by Her Highness Princess Astrid of Norway to press the button.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Christabel Flight, said: "I would like to thank the people of Oslo for this remarkable tree. As well as being a wonderful festive occasion, this is a great opportunity to celebrate 68 years of our partnership with Norway."



First night nerves as Harry gets lead role

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PRINCE Harry reportedly told ITV chiefs that he was nervous about taking the spotlight at the Royal Command Performance with Sir Elton John and One Direction – but he's been commanding performances from pop stars since he was at primary school.

Harry's first rock show dates back to when the 31-year-old prince was only eight, when he and his brother and their mum snuck in as the only guests at a gig by Sir Paul McCartney.

Macca holds the Guinness world record for playing to the largest indoor crowd in history, set in 1990

when he performed to 184,000 at Rio's Maracana Stadium. But in 1993 he set another record for his smallest crowd when he played to just the royal trio at Pinewood Studios.

Sir Paul, his wife Linda and their band were rehearsing at the studios for his New World Tour and his security team was told that the gig was off-limits to everyone and nobody, not even the head of his record label EMI, was to be allowed in.

But the strictly-no audience rule had to be broken when Princess Diana made a surprise visit to tour the studios with a little prince in each hand.

Macca stopped the arranged show, which was being filmed by an eight-camera crew directed by Aubrey Powell, to welcome the unexpected royal party, and then gave the



TURN TO PAGE 14

■ CENTRE STAGE: Prince Harry at the Royal Command Performance.

Cell, cell, cell... Prince receives jailhouse shock

THE Prince of Wales is facing a problem over one of his properties with an unusual "cell by" date – Dartmoor Prison, owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, is to close.

The notorious granite institution, leased to Her Majesty's Prison Service at a rent of £1.2 million a year, is to end its long history as one of Britain's most infamous jails.

The prison, which opened in 1809, is to cease to be because the Ministry of Justice has given notice that it will not renew the lease as part of a Government programme to incarcerate villains in more modern jails. Although the lease does not run out until 2024, the closure presents a problem for the Duchy as the prison at Princetown provides jobs for around 300 people.

Now the Duchy will have to consider an alternative use – possibly knocking down the prison and redeveloping the site as homes on the lines of the Prince of Wales's model village at Poundbury, just outside Dorchester, or converting the building into a hotel.

Although the building currently sleeps 641, it is believed that a major – and costly – modernisation would have to be done before many of the 2.4 million tourists who visit the moor each year could be persuaded to check in, despite the vast number of bars.

However, Dartmoor may have a future as a hostel. Developers in Holland and Sweden have successfully converted old prisons into cheap accommodation for backpackers. Another option is the example of Malmaison in Oxford, where the 95-room former jail in the city's Castle Quarter now operates as a chic hotel with rooms from £120 a night.

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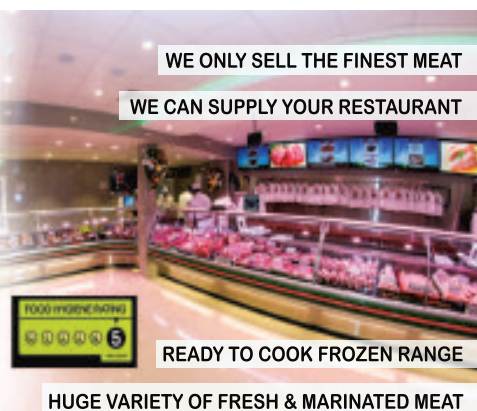
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ROYAL LONDON

Young royals on both sides of the camera...

Harry takes centre stage at command performance

FROM PAGE 13

boys a free hand of what they wanted him to play instead.

"What would you like to hear?" said Sir Paul.

"Rock and roll," replied William and Harry and so the former Beatle led the band through an impromptu set of Can't Buy Me Love, Twenty Flight Rock, Rave On and I Saw Her Standing There before adjourning for lunch in the studios canteen at a star-studded table of him and Linda, the princes and Princess Diana, her friend Sir David Puttnam and the late Robin Williams, who had been filming in another studio.

Although Macca's mini command performance was secretly filmed by Powell's crew, out of respect for royal privacy it has never been released.

By complete contrast there is little respect this Tuesday when ITV screens the Royal Variety Performance, hosted by comedian Jack Whitehall and at which Harry took the royal duties for the first time.

When he arrived at the Royal Albert Hall Harry said: "Jack Whitehall makes me nervous"

and he was wise to be anxious as he came in for some of Whitehall's affectionate lip.

Kicking off the show, Whitehall said Harry is one of his heroes, adding: "He may only be a prince but when it comes to banter, all hail the king."

He added Harry was the kind of man who, if his friend passed out drunk, he would say: "Stand back, I've got this. You get a Sharpie. You take out a camera phone. You hand me that razor. Those eyebrows are coming with me."

He also quipped that in honour of Harry they would turn the venue into a nightclub after the show and at one point Whitehall looked up at the Royal Box and said: "It was a tequila you ordered wasn't it, your Royal Highness?"

Whitehall also told the crowd: "His Royal Highness has quite a few fans back there. I don't want to mention any names ... ahem Kylie Minogue ... ahem ... Ricky Martin."

Whitehall, who went to the same school as Harry's sister-in-law, the Duchess of Cambridge, has used his links to Kate and Marlborough College in his past performances, telling of his mother's disappointment that he failed to marry the former Miss Middleton.

Having greeted Harry after the show, Whitehall said: "He said that's the first and last time he's going to laugh at me. I went in for the handshake and he pulled the other way."



■ MUSICAL ROYALTY: Prince Harry meets One Direction at the Royal Variety Performance at the Royal Albert Hall.

WHERE TO SEE A ROYAL THIS WEEK

FULL details of Royal events are on www.royal.gov.uk but here's the London schedule for the week ahead

December 8

■ **The Countess of Wessex**, as Grand President, St John Ambulance in the Priory of England and the Islands, will attend a Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas at The Priory Church followed by a reception at St John's Gate, St John's Lane, Clerkenwell.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Colonel, The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons), will attend the Household Cavalry Foundation Carol Concert and Reception at Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk SW1.

December 9th

■ **The Prince of Wales**, as President, Business in the Community, will attend a Leadership Network event at The Troxy, Tower Hamlets.

■ **The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge**, as Patrons of Skillforce, Place2Be and SportAid, will attend ICAP's 23rd annual Charity Day at ICAP, Broadgate EC2.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as President, Animal Health Trust, will hold a Fellowship Reception at St James's Palace.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as President, The Mission to Seafarers Limited, will attend a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill, and a reception at Skinners' Hall, London EC4.



■ ON DUTY: The Duchess of Cambridge.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Royal Bench, the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, will attend the Inner Temple Book Prize to mark the 800th Anniversary of the Sealing of the Magna Carta, the Treasury Building, Inner Temple, London EC4.

■ **The Duke of Gloucester**, as Patron, Construction Youth Trust will visit the new Training Centre, Building H, Drummond Road, Bermondsey.

■ **The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester** will attend a Reception at the British Museum.

■ **The Duke of Kent**, as Grand Master, United Grand Lodge of England, will attend the Royal Alpha Installation at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street WC2.

■ **Princess Alexandra** will attend the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity Christmas Concert in St Luke's Church, Sydney Street SW3.

December 10th

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Patron, Voluntary Service Overseas, will attend a Christmas

Concert and Reception, Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate SW1.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Renter Warden, the Fishmongers' Company, will attend a Committee of Wardens Meeting, a General Court Meeting and a Luncheon at the Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge.

■ **The Duchess of Gloucester**, as Royal Patron, The Lullaby Trust, this evening attends a Christmas Carol Concert at St. Columba's Church.

■ **Princess Alexandra**, as Patron, will visit St Christopher's Hospice, Lawrie Park Road, Sydenham.

December 11th

■ **The Duke of Kent**, as Patron, will attend The Trinity Laban Dance Faculty Graduation Ceremony at the Faculty of Dance, Laban Building, Creekside.

■ **The Duke of Kent**, as Colonel in Chief, will attend The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Regimental Dinner in the New Armouries at the Tower of London.

December 14th

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Warden, Gordonstoun School, will attend a Carol Service at Crown Court Church, Russell Street WC2.

December 15th

■ **The Duke of Gloucester**, as Joint President, Cancer Research UK, will attend a Christmas Concert of Carols, Music and Readings at St Paul's Cathedral.

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...both making a positive impact

Keen-eyed Kate puts family life into focus

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Duchess of Cambridge is set for a new royal role – as the monarchy's official “monkey”.

Palace aides are believed to be considering whether properly-trained Kate should take all, or at least many, of the royal family's photographs following wide professional acclaim for the high standard of her recent pictures of her children.

Experts say she could easily step into the shoes of the late Patrick Lichfield, the earl and cousin of The Queen who was renowned for his official royal portraits.

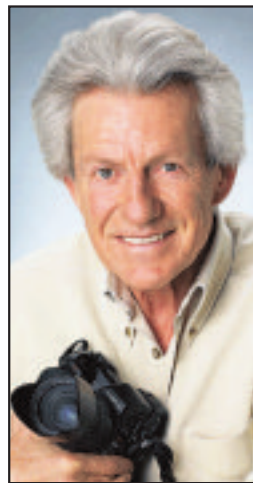
Lord Lichfield, who took the formal pictures at the wedding of Prince William's parents, died in 2005 and ever since the royal family has had to rely on photographs by celebrity or Press Association snappers for special occasions when a professional picture is issued.

Although Buckingham Palace will have picture approval rights on any photograph made public, the drawback is that due to the copyright laws the photographer owns the pictures – unless the royals operate a system popular with many celebrities of expensively buying the copyright.

But the problem of how to keep royal photographs “in house” could be solved if Kate becomes the palace “monkey” – a term used by Fleet Street veterans to describe newspaper staff photographers.

The term is widely believed outside newspaper circles to be pejorative, but it is in fact affectionately used, although its derivation has long been a matter of dispute.

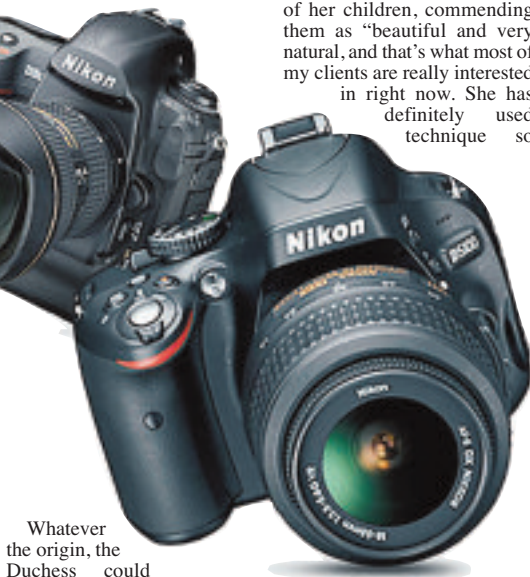
Daily Mirror photographer Andrew Stenning claimed the term came from photographers following Prince Charles on foreign royal trips in the Seventies and Eighties, when they had a habit of climbing up trees to get a better shot. Charles was annoyed about this and is said to have once given a packet of peanuts to some reporters with the comment



■ EXPERT EYE: Lord Lichfield.

“here's some nuts for your monkey friends”.

However, former Daily Star lensman Ciaran Donnelly said it came from Belfast during the Troubles. When Belfast photographer Cyril Cain was being asked about a story, his colleague, Mirror reporter Joe Gorrod, chipped in to say that if anyone wanted to know about the details they “should talk to the organ grinder not to the monkey”.



Whatever the origin, the Duchess could now be the royals' “staff” snapper because of the quality of her work.

There are considerable advantages to the idea. First, Catherine is already trained for the job – as part of her MA in the History of Art at the Uni-

versity of St Andrews she studied photography on a module that required at least 300 hours' work on the course.

Second, unlike a celebrity or Press photographer, her picture subjects know her well and are therefore relaxed when she is taking their photographs. And thirdly, the more of Kate's photographs that the palace can release, the less likely newspapers and magazines – in particular foreign magazines – will be to use pictures snapped by the paparazzi, who are known to so greatly irritate the Royal Family.

Interestingly, as one might think they would be against the idea as it could lose them work, professional photographers are all for Kate taking the official press shots of her family and have showered praise on her recent portraits of Prince George and Princess Charlotte.

“Kate's charming photos prove that she has alternative career options at her disposal,” said commercial photographer Liron Samuels, whose enthusiasm for her “eye” was backed by The Sun's royal photographer Arthur Edwards.

The Daily Telegraph's picture editor Matthew Fearn, added: “The Duchess of Cambridge has a passion for photography and she has shot four beautiful photographs of Prince George and Princess Charlotte. The Duchess is to be commended on producing such a lovely set of portraits which will, I imagine, give great joy to both members of the Royal Family and the wider public.”

Fearn praised the Duchess's skill in using a fairly wide aperture to give a narrow depth of field “that deliberately throws the background out of focus”. The lighting, added the Telegraph's expert, was “technically excellent”.

Professional child photographer Glenda Tarling has also praised Kate's earlier pictures of her children, commending them as “beautiful and very natural, and that's what most of my clients are really interested in right now. She has definitely used technique so

that the foreground becomes sharper.”

However, the Duchess is not the only one with “the eye” at the palace. The Queen has long been an enthusiastic photographer, as is the Duke of York – who published a 160-page

book of his own pictures in 1985. And for more royal photographs check out the Royal Collection, which houses 450,000 pictures in the Round Tower at Windsor Castle.

“These photographs were acquired by British monarchs, their consorts and other members of the Royal Family from 1842 to the present day. They consist of portraits of royalty from Britain, Europe and beyond; portraits of celebrities and statesmen and photographs taken by members of the Royal Family,” said a spokesman.

“Queen Victoria and Prince

Albert laid the foundations of the collection during the 1840s. Queen Victoria was particularly keen to acquire portraits of people from all walks of life but Queen Alexandra, consort of King Edward VII, was the most celebrated royal photographer of her time.

“Her photograph albums are unique personal diaries, providing a fascinating insight into the lives of the royal families of Europe from the 1880s to the First World War. With her camera she recorded her friends and family, and the places she visited on her extensive travel.”



■ CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED: Kate's photographs of her young children have won praise from leading photographers.

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SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

Ailing BBC puts on brave face for holiday viewing

Auntie's Christmas tonic

by Geoff Baker

THIS week's celebrity is an old bird currently facing the threat of euthanasia on her 90th birthday next year.

Which is a shame, because of all the stars of British showbusiness – world showbiz, even – she was once the brightest, the cleverest and the most adored. She was the benchmark, the standard to which all others aspired and she knew everybody; kings, queens, idols and icons, they all flocked to be her darling.

But now she is some pathetic sort of Miss Havisham of the 21st century; withered, faded and patched up in her tattered old best – and it hasn't helped her reputation much that John Cleese recently said that he wouldn't touch her with a bargepole.

We call her "Auntie". It's an affectionate term for someone who is increasingly becoming so derided and indeed, per Cleese, seemingly-detested, but as with any old aunt who goes around the twist, our condemnation of her irritating ways is tempered by fond memories of when she was fab and fun.

And she was once. Once we would look forward to Christmas with Auntie with glee and eager anticipation. Once she would make our Christmas, she was its highlight, bedazzling and amusing us as we sat amid the piles of torn wrapping paper passing Matchmakers and Twiglets, our eyes never leaving her face as we lapped up the succession of enchanting spells that she cast.

But no more. Last Christmas, the best that she could do was to attract just over seven and a half million of us to pay attention to her wittering away in the corner. And that best Christmas Day rating was for a show called *Mrs Brown's Boys*, a cod-Irish and deeply-embarrassing drag act sit-com which has also been called "the worst comedy ever made" [*The Guardian*] and "lazy, end of the pier trash".

The TV critic Paul English, who made that last damning assessment for the Scottish *Daily Record*, continued: "One half-hour of this actually made me angry. Angry that the BBC seem to be abandoning quality in the pursuit of lowest common denominator ratings."

And there is the rub, "abandoning quality". Auntie used to be quality. Like those other great institutions of ours, The Queen and The Beatles, she was only ever associated with the very best, the toppermost of the uppermost, and in her heyday – when Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise would draw as many as 28 million viewers, half of the entire nation, to one of their Christmas specials – the puerile likes of *Mrs Brown's Boys* wouldn't have got a look in.

Clearly the BBC is well aware of the embarrassment of her current run-down state, which is why that it is not until the 710th word of its 1,133-word press release exhorting BBC1's "outstanding range of distinctive programmes" for Christmas that it can bring itself to even mention *Mrs Brown's Boys*.

Even though it knows that MB'sB is likely to top its festive ratings for the third year running, promotionally it swiftly sweeps it under the carpet with the same discomfiture as Chuck Berry fans hide away the fact that the king of rock and roll's riffs had his biggest hit with *My Ding A' Ling*.



■ BEEB AT ITS BEST: *Call The Midwife* and *Sherlock* return for Christmas.

As with all of us Cinderellas who can no longer afford to dazzle at the ball, the BBC's problem is a lack of money. While it may attempt to defend itself vigorously against the growing complaints of "there's nothing on!" the fact remains that with its £145.50 licence fee frozen until 2020 and controlled by a Government fetishistic of the advantages of private over public, it has very little cash left in the coffee jar for buying new frocks.

And the ignominy of its poverty is made all the worse by the coming of its big anniversary next year. 2016 marks the 90th year since the inauguration of

the British Broadcasting Corporation, which largely became an institution because the General Strike of 1926 temporarily closed all of the newspapers and so the public turned to the wireless as their primary source of information during the crisis.

But instead of facing a gala year, Auntie is having to cover behind a make-do-and-mend schedule of repeats and the cheap-to-make programming that is reality TV whilst a major star like John Cleese damns it from high heaven.

Cleese was a favourite son of the BBC to the bone; from *The Frost Re-*

port to Monty Python to Fawlty Towers, it was through the BBC that his comedy genius was enabled to shine.

But now the star whose pioneering wit helped shape the glory days of the Corporation says, "there's no way I want to work in TV, especially at the BBC. I have a nasty feeling a large proportion of the commissioning editors have no idea what they're doing."

With another bite at the hand that once fed him, Cleese says that aside from watching some sports fixture, when it comes to TV viewing these days, his default position is "I pick up a book as a reflex".

An old friend of mine, a producer who is also a big mate of Cleese and who has been responsible for five of the BBC's most successful and longest-running comedy series, each one of them a veritable legend of British television, shares the Python-founder's despair.

"It's absolutely dreadful at the BBC these days, the commissioning editors don't have a clue what the public wants and if I was to go to them now with the idea for [name of one of his massively-successful shows here] there is no way that they would even commission it," said the pal whose name and programmes I won't identify because I don't want to queer what little remains of his pitch.

"One of the problems is that nobody at the Beeb has any daring about them, they are too cowed to try to be ground-breaking any more and so we get these daft variations on a safe theme, weak variants of *Bake Off* or everything having to be C grade celebrity-led, because they cannot imagine anything better.

"But the trouble with that is that the BBC's traditional audience, which has grown up with these ground-breaking programmes, sees right through that fob off and consequently it switches off."

The BBC will argue that its old audience is switching over, rather than off, to the alternative entertainments – computer games, many more other TV channels available, etc.

And whilst it is undeniably a fact that many of these alternatives are now hugely popular – the release of the *Grand Theft Auto 5* game took just three Guinness record-setting days to notch up sales exceeding \$1 million – the key question is: have these alternatives become disproportionately popular because the traditional entertainment of television is no longer sufficiently entertaining?

Of course tastes have changed in recent decades, but popular culture has not changed so fundamentally as to alone account for the plummet from Morecambe and Wise's audience of 28 million to *Mrs Brown's* 7.6 million.

However, with a face braver than Joan of Arc at the stake, the BBC is bouncily still promising us a winter wonderland of, how can I describe it... um... stuff.

Its press release begins: "From bringing to life the characters of Charles Dickens' iconic stories in *Dickensian*, *Stickman* and David Walliams' *Billionaire Boy*, to performances of *Carmen* and Andrea Chenier from the Royal Opera House, comedy from John Bishop, Russell Howard and *Detectors* or to family favourites such as *Strictly Come Dancing*, *Still Open All Hours* and *Sports Personality of the*

Year, BBC Television has something for everyone this Christmas."

The BBC is defiantly chipper. Mark Linsey, who goes under the title of Acting Director of BBC Television, which confusingly does not explain whether he is a drama coach or a stand-in boss, is effervescent.

"Christmas is a time for coming together and I'm thrilled that, as ever, the BBC has a fantastic line up of family favourites and new shows for all to enjoy," fizzes Linsey.

"Across the channels, we have an outstanding range of distinctive programmes that display our commitment to bringing viewers the very best in ambitious, quality television. 2015 is set to be our best yet."

Although, as a former PR, I'm well aware that "set to be" is the WD40 of optimism, enabling one to play with all manner of accuracy, "our best yet" is a bit of a stiff claim, how will they manage that?

Apparently, besides the spirit of ho ho ho in Albert Square – that most lugubrious of festive locations – being "set to be one of the most explosive yet, families at war will lead to tragedy and the worlds of some Walford residents will come crashing down around them" – BBC1 is banking on swinging "the best yet" via a trinity of drama aimed largely the ladies.

First up will be a Christmas special of *Call The Midwife*, the superbly-scripted, acted and designed example of BBC drama at its finest and in this episode Nonnatus House of 1960 "is rocked when Sister Monica Joan goes missing".

Next comes the man of the year, the crush of millions of fans who strangely delight in calling themselves "Cumberbitches", in which their Benedict returns as Sherlock in *The Abominable Bride*.

And then there is *And Then There Were None*, a new adaptation of Agatha Christie's crime novel in which the glistening body that made scything and lust such a Sunday night event earlier this year returns – not as Ross Poldark but as Philip Lombard, a murderous mercenary described by the salacity-inciting Aidan Turner as "heinous and horrible and nasty, amoral and selfish and everything that Ross isn't".

Although the BBC's promotion material does not mention whether Lombard just happens to do any of that gratuitous stripping which made Poldark such a blatant sex object, readers of Christie's book know that he does get shot on a beach, so presumably there's scope there for him to get a cossie on and thus induce zillions of women to rush for a cold shower as the ratings rocket towards "our best yet".

Let's hope so. Let's hope that the *Poldark* horse is the outsider that trounces the rubbish of *Mrs Brown's Boys* in the ratings this Christmas and re-establishes Auntie at 90 to her old magnificence.

She needs the boost, for it is no secret that the knives of Westminster are drawn for her and although some in the Government may believe that it is time to put the old bird down by selling her off entirely to private programme-makers, the output of Channel 5 is evidence of the sheer folly that would be and of the great loss to us all.

The season's greetings, Auntie; please make our Christmas again.

Authentic Sardinian food, Saporì Sardi is a fine Italian restaurant located in Fulham Road.

"simple, yet fantastico!"

Adrian Seal - Restaurant reviewer for getwestlondon

Saporì Sardi is a haven of authentic Sardinian food and carefully selected Italian wines. Saporì Sardi is owned and run by husband and wife team, Piero and Gul, who have created a warm and friendly atmosphere and have been known to sit and chat with their diners over a glass of Mirto at the end of a busy day!

Piero Taris (Owner & Chef) was born in Sardinia and arrived in London in 1986, aged 26 and full of enthusiasm and passion for the unique flavours of his homeland.



Piero uses authentic products imported from Sardinia together with fresh local produce to prepare a menu that is refined and innovative whilst maintaining the strict traditions of his distinctive region. He has been cooking since he was 11, learning to bake bread from his father, Giulio, who was a Master baker in the Italian army during the 2nd World War.

Piero began working in a kitchen at 16 and was Head Chef at the age of 21 at the renowned Torre del Corsari in Costa Verde. He has taught Italian Cuisine to chefs at some of the world's finest hotels including the Sberaton Group.



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WINE & DINE

The food and
drink page for
West London



■ **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is leading a new war on waste – in the kitchen and the supermarket shelves.

By Ella Walker
Press Association

CAMPAIGNING TV chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is unashamedly bullish about his frugal approach to food.

"I haven't got any recipes for completely mouldy lemons that have gone blue, but if it's mouldy at one end, then I'll cut that end off and use the other half," says Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, being quite serious.

This is, after all, a man who was once nicknamed "Hugh Fearlessly-Eatsitall" and his latest book, *Love Your Leftovers*, sets out to get everyone else doing the same.

The 50-year-old celebrity chef, famed for his River Cottage series and books, is horrified at the amount of food and leftovers we chuck in the bin, and sees odds and ends as "a really legitimate source of ingredients".

"More than half the meals I put together incorporate something from a previous meal, or something that's knocking around or needs eating up, that's wagging its finger at me saying, 'If you don't eat me soon I'll be on the compost'."

"This is something that's very ingrained in me, but talking to others, it's something people don't always have a lot of confidence around," he says, explaining the drive behind the book.

"There's a lot we can do to get the best out of our ingredients, throw less away, to save money and address what is amounting to a major environmental problem, and we can all do our bit. But it doesn't have to be done out of a

Don't let it be wasted says Hugh



■ **LEFTOVER IDEAS:** Hugh's latest cookery book.

sense of guilty conscience, it can be done with a great sense of joy and excitement, because – here's the real crux of it – I've always found the dishes I spin out of leftovers to be the most satisfying and delicious."

From salvaged greens and left-

over lamb transformed into a shepherd's pie, the Old Etonian does also include recipes for crispy fish skeletons (which he admits is going "out on a limb") and potato peel soup.

"You can actually spin a really original and delicious little snack from a mackerel skeleton and a little bit of spice from the cupboard," he buzzes, adding: "And potato peel soup is an absolute revelation!"

Apparently it tastes like the liquidised skin of a baked potato, packed with "an earthy, almost mushroomy, umami flavour".

Fearnley-Whittingstall's obsession with leftovers is just one of the many strands of food waste he abhors. In 2010, his Fish Fight campaign successfully fought "crazy EU laws" that allowed 50 per cent of caught, edible fish to be thrown back overboard, dead, and now he's getting on the case of ordinary shoppers and supermarkets.

"Between a quarter and a third of the food we produce is thrown

away, and we bear responsibility for about half of that at home," he explains, while the other half is the responsibility of the big retailers.

"It's to do with their incredibly strict cosmetic standards and big piles of food accumulating at the farms, not because the farmers want to throw it away, but because the supermarket said, 'That carrot's not straight enough'."

His recent BBC series, *Hugh's War On Waste*, set out to challenge people and companies to radically reduce the amount of food waste they produce.

"Food waste is a solvable problem. We just need to be a bit smart about how we address that, and if we're going to demand that of the supermarkets – and I think we should – we also have to be ready to do our bit."

Being based in Devon, his family rarely gets takeout (unless it's from "an incredibly good pizza place in Honiton") that does "delicious sourdough", but Fearnley-Whittingstall himself is keen on keeping up with foodie street markets ("It's interesting how street food is really becoming so diverse and exciting").

Regardless of the options available, for this foodie, organic, home-grown produce will always be his ideal.

"Even if I've been cooking to camera all day," he explains, "when I get home, for me, the way to relax is still to see what's in the fridge, grab a couple of things from the garden and improvise the meal – albeit with a glass of wine in my hand."

So, if your fridge is overflowing with odds and ends, before chucking them in the bin, have a go at one of the recipes from Fearnley-Whittingstall's new book.



MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Root vegetable risotto

Serves four

WINTER root vegetables make a great colourful risotto to serve at a dinner party as a starter or a vegetarian main course. You can use any seasonal vegetables you want for this. Even add some diced green cabbage.

1 medium onion, peeled, halved and finely chopped
1tbsp of olive oil
200g carnaroli rice
1 large carrot, trimmed, peeled and cut into rough 1 cm dice
1 medium turnip, trimmed, peeled and cut into rough 1 cm dice
1 small or half a swede, trimmed, peeled and cut into rough 1 cm dice
1 small parsnip, trimmed, peeled and cut into rough 1 cm dice
1-1.2ltrs hot vegetable stock, or a couple good quality stock cubes dissolved in that amount of water
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
2tbsp chopped parsley
60g butter
80g freshly grated parmesan

Melt the butter in a heavy pan and gently cook the onion for a couple minutes until soft. Add the rice, stirring it well with a wooden spoon over a low heat for a minute.

Gradually add the hot stock a little at a time for 5 minutes, stirring constantly and ensuring that each addition has been fully absorbed before adding the next.

Root vegetable risotto is perfect for a dinner party as a starter or a vegetarian main course (*Jason Lowe*)

Add the vegetables, season and continue adding the stock and cooking in the same way until the rice is soft, but retains a bit of bite. The risotto should be quite moist at this stage, neither too dry nor too wet. Add the parsley and butter and stir in half of the parmesan. Correct the seasoning and add more stock if necessary. Serve immediately, with the rest of the parmesan served separately.

The day or morning before, you can half-cook your risotto then tip it on to a tray to cool down, refrigerate it then when you are ready to serve it simply transfer it back into a pan and continue where you left off.



■ **WINTER WARMER:** Root vegetable risotto.

Talk Of The Town

london Listings

Billy Elliot at the Victoria Palace Theatre

To December 17
Billy Elliot is a funny, heart-warming and feel-good celebration of one young boy's dream in a gripping tale of triumph over adversity. This original story captured the hearts and minds of the world when the movie was released in October 2000. Nominated for three Oscars and 13 Bafta awards, this poignant film broke box office records across the world.

Elf the musical at the Dominion Theatre

To January 2
This year's festive must-see show is going to be this heart-warming extravaganza. The show, based on the 2003 film which starred Will Ferrell in the title role, was a smash hit on Broadway and is likely to be London's hottest ticket this season, despite the much reported high ticket prices. The show stars former Girls Aloud songstress Kimberley Walsh alongside West End heart throb Ben Forster, who will once again play the eponymous hero after wowing audiences last year in the role in both Plymouth and Dublin.

A Christmas Evening with Stoll Veterans

December 16
Christmas music and readings in aid of Stoll, a charity providing housing and other services to disabled and homeless ex-service personnel and other people with disabilities in London. Features the Band of the Honourable Artillery Company and the Choir of St Paul's Knightsbridge, and takes place at St Paul's Knightsbridge, Wilton Place, SW1X 8SH. Tickets £25. Children under 16 are admitted free. Price includes refreshments. Tickets: 08004118881 or www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2245852

Carols in Trafalgar Square

To December 23
More than 50 carol groups each sing for an hour beneath the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square to raise funds for voluntary or charitable organisations. Resembling something of a winter wonderland with the world-famous Christmas tree in place (an annual gift from Norway since 1947), the scene is set for an atmospheric recital of classics. From Deck the Halls and Good King Wenceslas to Ding Dong Merrily on High and The Holly and the Ivy, various tuneless groups sing to raise much needed cash for charity.

The World Goes Pop at the Tate Modern

Until January 24, 2016
Over 200 works by artists from Latin America to Asia celebrates the many faces of pop art. This show isn't about the pop art you know, it's about the pop art that escaped the history books. And it certainly packs a punch. It's fun, engaging, colourful, revelatory, opinionated, racy and stunning. Most importantly the show illuminates how pop wasn't confined to Andy Warhol's Factory in New York or Richard Hamilton's studio in London – it was a phenomenon that reached much further, practiced by artists in Peru, Israel,

Argentina, Japan, Brazil and Eastern Europe. In an opening gallery painted scintillating red, the work quite literally pops off the walls. Here, traditional techniques are turned on their head, such as Japanese woodblock printing in Ushio Shinohara's 'Doll Festival' (1966) which is reinvigorated with the use of industrial materials like Perspex.

Walt Disney's Sleigh Bells at BFI Southbank

December 12
The world premiere of the new restoration of the Walt Disney film *Sleigh Bells* (1928), featuring the first-ever Disney character, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, a long-eared precursor to Mickey Mouse, will take place at BFI Southbank on December 12 as part of a programme It's A Disney Christmas: Seasonal Shorts, screening other festive Disney gems from the 1930s to the present day.

Cats at the London Palladium

Until January 2
Enduringly popular musical Cats will play at the London Palladium for a strictly limited run until January 2 2016. Beverley Knight is Grizabella the Glamour Cat. For more details visit the website catsthemusical.com

Barry the Penguin at the Theatre Cafe, Shaftesbury Avenue

December 12
Barry the Penguin will visit along with some of his West End friends in the pre-Christmas hustle and bustle to sign some books and CDs as well as adding some cheer for the coffee supping visitors. The book, named after its star, is an original story based on the stage musical by Lesley Ross and John-Victor. It's been adapted by Rachel Bellman and includes many of the songs from the stage musical.

Through the Mill at London Theatre Workshop

To December 19
Through the Mill – a new play by Ray Rackham featuring a hit list of Judy Garland's greatest standards will get its world premiere in a three-week season at London Theatre Workshop from Tuesday, December 1 to Saturday, December 19. For more details visit their website londontheatreworkshop.com

British Museum of Food

To January 23
Located in a building at Borough Market across two floors.

Winterville 2015

To December 23
Winterville returns to Victoria Park, East London with another packed programme of attractions, entertainment and food and drink. Built around the Winterville clock tower, this little festive town offers seasonal classics and dazzling alternatives for all ages. Entry to Winterville is free, but most events and activities require a paid-for ticket.



■ SITTING UNCOMFORTABLY: Some of the cast of *Desperate Measures*. Picture: Dee Shulman

Innovation is not made to measure

Desperate Measures *

PERHAPS basing a new musical on one of Shakespeare's so-called problem plays wasn't such a good idea, writes Nicky Sweetland.

In fact, owing to the subject matter, you could say it was "ill conceived". *Desperate Measures*, based on *Measure for Measure*, sadly proves that you can't always improve a story by adding music and a bit of a contemporary twist.

The show, which is playing at the Jermyn Street Theatre, falls very short in terms of a professional production and although the young cast shows

some promise, it feels at all times like a mediocre school play.

Set in 1600s London, the musical poses the question of what society may have been like had the free love revolution been nipped in the bud before it gathered pace, and instead the government had imposed a moral crackdown outlawing sex out of wedlock.

A pop star, a nun, a zealot deputy prime minister and lots of ladies of the night could make for a speedy and amusing farce but the script, music and direction are just far too contrived and the production clunky and slow. That's not to say it is all bad and the show

markedly improves in act two, mostly due to Ellie Nunn, daughter of acclaimed theatrical director Sir Trevor Nunn, gaining more stage time and proving there is obviously real acting talent in her genes.

There are also a few nice ensemble numbers with some good choreography and the musical accompaniment is sympathetic but with sound levels another issue, the solo voices are often overpowered.

With original new musicals so few and far between, it's important to experiment with different stories and settings, but perhaps a play that doesn't fit happily into genre is not a wise choice as a starting point.

The prince of thieves is on a mission



■ RAVE REVIEW: Robin Hood stars, left to right, Nadia Albina (Marian), Derek Elroy (Nurse) and Oliver Wellington (Robin). Picture: Robert Day

WITH the pantomime season really starting to gather pace, there is one place that's really worth a visit.

The Theatre Royal Stratford East delivers great pantomimes for audiences of all ages year upon year. Its speciality lies in producing a show that reflects the dynamism of its vibrant community and capturing new audiences through its innovative storytelling, making it arguably one of the most relevant and entertaining pantomimes in London.

This Christmas audiences will be transformed to the land of StratEastHam by the Olivier Award nominated and critically acclaimed team at Theatre Royal Stratford East, with their new adaption of *Robin Hood*. Combining the timeless story with a contemporary and fresh script and original music, this version hopes to impress audiences during its run at the renowned East London producing house.

Robin Hood, the prince of thieves, and his band of merry men are on a mission this Christmas! As he robs from the

rich and gives to the poor, he's on a quest to save good King Richard and the poor people of StratEastHam by trying to defeat evil Prince John. But who will save the day? Will it be brave and daring Robin Hood? Or will it be the feisty and fearless Maid Marian?

Under the direction of Theatre Royal Stratford East's artistic director, Kerry Michael, this magical story is full of laughter, energy and surprises along the way and is likely to be enjoyed by all generations.

Kerry said: "Pantomime is a big part of our annual programming at Theatre Royal Stratford East and I'm thrilled to be working with such a great and creative team, yet again. We pride ourselves on delivering pantomime inclusive to all, which speaks to the people – and this year is no exception. For many young people this will be their first experience of the theatre and we aim to make it one they will want to repeat."

■ Robin Hood is running until Saturday, January 23. For more see stratfordeast.com

This is a FREE listings service for local charitable and community organisations.

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Talk Of The Town



■ **LOUD AND PROUD** Buttons (Samuel Buttery) and Cinderella (Krystal Dockery). Picture: Tristram Kenton

It's time for fun, Cinders

The panto season is upon us and theatre critic *Nicky Sweetland* will join the audiences to see as many shows as she can (oh yes she is!)

Cinderella
Lyric Hammersmith ***

I'VE seen a lot of pantomimes over the years. In fact last year I had seen 13 productions by the end of the season, and although there is still a lot of snobbery about the genre, with the right formulae, a panto can make for a fabulously entertaining show to rival the biggest West End blockbusters.

The key elements are that it needs to be funny for both adults and children, have great characters, good music and must never forget that there is a story to be told.

Over the coming weeks I will once again be venturing into the world of panto and I started this year's marathon with *Cinderella* at the Lyric Hammersmith.

The Lyric is well known for its Christmas productions and over the years has gained an enviable reputation for cool and contemporary takes on some of the classic fairy tales. This year's show is no different, with the fable of the downtrodden stepdaughter having been given a trendy lift by up and coming playwright Tom Wells.

There are no glass slippers for this feisty Cinders, played with real aplomb by Krystal Dockery, who instead dons a pair of spangly converse train-

ers to go to the ball. Krystal is a former ensemble member who has made the jump to lead cast and proves she is more than up to it with her energy and sparkle.

Her Prince Charming is another Lyric alumni, Karl Queensborough, whose innocent and urban portrayal is adorable. He also shows a real vocal aptitude, both when performing solo and when singing a lovely duet with Krystal.

These aren't the only memorable songs but there could really do with being a few more musical interludes, especially for the very underused ensemble and with a talent like Sam Buttery in the cast it feels a shame he is not utilised further.

Buttery, who is best known for being a contestant on BBC1's *The Voice*, plays Buttons and when he finally gets his chance to shine, shows his vocal prowess with a mesmerising finale. He teams up with the Ugly Sisters, Booty and Licious (Matt Sutton and Peter Caulfield) for some of the comedy elements, including the obligatory slop scene, which unfortunately felt a bit under-rehearsed and lacked the slick timing that would make it funnier.

Not your regular pantomime dames, the Ugly Sisters are actually a bit more like a couple of uncouth blokes. They have a good rapport, both with each other and with the audience, but some of the humour aimed at the adults feels a bit tasteless,



■ **SO IN LOVE:** Cinderella (Krystal Dockery) and Prince Charming (Karl Queensborough) will charm audiences this Christmas at the Lyric Hammersmith. Picture: Tristram Kenton

which means they come across as just too unsophisticated.

The same cannot be said, however, of the dazzling Sarah Crowe, who plays the evil stepmother with a perfect dose of acid wit and a measure of diva-ish flair.

The show as a whole is both beautifully costumed and designed and the magical transformation scene to close act one is truly stunning.

With its unique local nuances, I'm sure *Cinderella* will be another hit with the patrons of the Lyric Hammersmith.



Arterton is Nell Gwynn

GEMMA Arterton is set to star as Nell Gwynn in the West End transfer of Jessica Swale's new play.

Following critical acclaim and a sell-out run at Shakespeare's Globe, the award-winning star will play the fabled mistress, described by Samuel Pepys as "pretty, witty Nell", for a strictly limited season at the Apollo Theatre from Thursday, February 4.

It is 1660. The Puritans have run away with their drab grey tails between their legs. Charles II has exploded onto the scene with a love of all things loud, French and sexy. And at Drury Lane, a young Nell Gwynn is selling oranges for sixpence. Little does she know who's watching.

Arterton shot to fame following her breakthrough role in the James Bond film *Quantum of Solace* in 2008 playing Bond



■ **CLASSIC:** Gemma Arterton.

Girl *Strawberry Fields*. She then went on the score success with roles in films including *Clash of the Titans* and *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters* before achieving high acclaim for her portrayal of Rita O'Grady in the West End production of *Made in Dagenham* just last year. Arterton will star as cheeky, charming and clever Nell Gwynn, one of the first, and most acclaimed, women to appear on the London stage.

Swale's blissfully entertaining new play charts the rise of an unlikely heroine, from her roots in Coal Yard Alley to her success as Britain's most celebrated actress, and her hard-won place in the heart of the king.

■ **Nell Gwynn** will run at the Apollo from February 4 to April 30. For more details visit the website nimaxtheatres.com

New patrons

DARCEY Bussell, Tom Daley and David Walliams are to be patrons of leading choreographer Matthew Bourne's charity Re:Bourne, which invests in the future of dance and is a crucial mechanism for finding and nurturing the next generation of dancers, choreographers and audiences. The charity has grown significantly in recent years delivering workshops, projects and productions across the UK and around the world.

Re:Bourne's activity continues to grow at exponential rates, with new projects and productions planned in the coming years to engage more young people and audiences in dance.

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18. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.
19. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.
20. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.
21. Box Numbers
Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for distribution of trade canvassing matter. Original testimonials, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind must not be enclosed. A box Number and postal address are charged as part of the advertisement, i.e. Box No., centre address. There is no charge for forwarding replies. Box numbers alone are not available for use in 'Trade' advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.
22. Holiday & Travel Category
All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number alone are not permitted.
23. Data Protection
The service you have requested may require us to carry out a credit search at a credit-referencing agency, which will record the fact that a search has been made. We may need to share your information with other lenders and credit reference agencies. However, we will only use the information from these searches to make credit-granting decisions and, if necessary, for fraud prevention or tracing debtors.
24. Data controller will use your information for administration and analysis. We may share your information with other Tindle Group Newspaper companies or carefully selected third parties. We, or they, may send you details of other goods and services, which may be of interest to you. The information may be provided by letter, telephone or other reasonable means of communication. Calls may be recorded or monitored for training purposes.
25. Special conditions apply with regard to the advertising of adult services, which are outlined to all persons submitting such advertisements.

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Public Notices

MARIO MORISCO
OTHERWISE MARIO SABINO MORISCO OTHERWISE MARIO SABINO MORISCO GUISEPPE LATE OF WESTMINSTER, LONDON W2 DIED THERE
ON 15 MARCH 2015
The kin of the above named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), One Kemble Street, London, WC2B 4TS or at www.gov.uk/bonavacantia, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

Government Legal Department

AMANDA CHRISTINE WILLIS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Flat 41, Morgan House, 57 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2LF, who died on 14/9/2015 are required to send written particulars to the undersigned on or before 18/2/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Stephensons Solicitors LLP, 1st Floor, Sefton House, Northgate Close, Horwich, Bolton BL6 6PQ, (Ref: AVC/W01987.1)

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NOTICE OF AMENDMENT OF GENERAL

SAFETY CERTIFICATE

THE SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS ACT 1975

As amended by The Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987

The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham under Section 4(1) (a) of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975, has amended the General Safety Certificates issued to

1. QPR Holdings Ltd with respects of Loftus Road Stadium, South Africa Road, London, W12 7PA on the 14th October 2015.
2. Chelsea FC PLC with respects of Stamford Bridge Fulham Road, London, SW6 1HS on the 4th August 2015.
3. Fulham Football Club Ltd with respects of Craven Cottage, Stevenage Road, London SW6 6HH on the 7th August 2015.

Details of the amendments made and copies of the respective Safety Certificates may be viewed on the council's website www.lbhf.gov.uk or inspected at London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham Environment Services Department 1st Floor Reception Town Hall Extension King Street Hammersmith W6 9JU by appointment.

Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

Parsons Green Depot 33 - 39 Parsons Green Lane SW6

2015/05287/OUT

Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site to include the erection of a series of 3, 4, 5 and 6 storey plus basement buildings and conversion of existing railway arches comprising a maximum of 119 residential units (totalling 16,500sqm); a maximum of 1,100sqm of Class A1/A2/A3/A4 retail/cafe/restaurant/bar floorspace; maximum of 2,315sqm of Class B1 workspace and Class D2 Leisure floorspace (maximum 575sqm) in podium block; and maximum of 1,739sqm of Class B1 workspace in Block H; together with associated car parking, new access, landscaping and public realm (Outline application for land use, access, layout and scale).

The proposal constitutes a major development. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **3rd January 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

96, 98, 100 And 102 Wandsworth Bridge Road SW6

2015/05609/FUL

Excavation of the existing basements to the rear of No's 98 and 100, change of use to the rear ground and rear part of the basement of No's 98 and 100 from Class A1 retail and A2 financial services to 2 x 2 bedroom self-contained flats; erection of side infill extension to No 102 at ground floor level; rear extension at ground floor level to No 98; enlargement of existing front lightwells to 96, 98, 100 and 102; alterations to shopfronts including a new entrance doors to No's 96 and 98.

19 Poplar Grove W6

2015/05500/FUL

Excavation of the front and side gardens and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

Broadway Chambers 18 - 20 Hammersmith Broadway London

2015/04451/FUL

Change of use of part of the basement from ancillary storage and part of the ground floor of no. 18 Hammersmith Broadway from retail (Class A1) into restaurant use (Class A3); installation of a new shopfront to no. 18 Hammersmith Broadway; installation of extract duct at ground floor level and associated external alterations.

Flat Second Floor 20 Southerton Road W6

2015/05401/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension.

162 Goldhawk Road W12

2015/04310/FUL

Conversion of existing building from Class (B1) offices to three one bedroom self contained flats and one two bedroom flat self contained flat; remove existing front lightwell and steps; erection of a single storey side extension at lower ground floor level.

Land To The Side Of Gloucester House 194 Hammersmith Road London

2015/04907/FUL

Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated Electrical Vehicles only parking bays.

Land Outside Lady Margaret Secondary School 9 - 15 Parsons Green London

2015/04904/FUL

Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated Electrical Vehicles only parking bays.

7 Mulberry Place W6

2015/05529/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at first floor level over part of the existing back addition.

14 Kinnoul Road W6

2015/05414/FUL

Excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

98 Masbro' Road W14

2015/05509/FUL

Erection of an extension at basement and ground floor level following the demolition of the existing single storey rear extension; excavation and lowering of the rear garden to form a rear lightwell, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of a new bike store in front garden

2 Wingate Road W6

2015/05539/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to replace existing conservatory extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey infill extension between the main building and the existing side extension.

99A Moore Park Road SW6

2015/05472/FUL

Erection of an additional floor and raising of the party walls at roof level; conversion of the first, second and third floor level into 1 x one bedroom and 1 x two bedroom self-contained flats.

13 Bovingdon Road SW6

2015/03153/FUL

Non Material Amendment to Planning Permission Ref: 2012/01212/FUL granted 5th July 2012 for the 'Erection of a front roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement.' Amendment to include infilling of a small rear lightwell to the single storey back addition.

71 Gowan Avenue SW6

2015/05432/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 7no solar panels and 1no rooflight above the main flat roof at roof level; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope; replacement of existing windows with new windows at ground and first floor level, to the front and rear elevation; installation of new sliding doors to replace the existing doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation (revised description).

The Queens Club Palliser Road W14

2015/05502/FUL

Replacement of existing windows located centrally at 1st floor level of the bay to the Pavilion Terrace elevation with new windows.

209 Hammersmith Grove W6

2015/04631/FUL

Erection of a rear extension on top of the existing back addition including the formation of a roof terrace at upper ground floor level.

209 Hammersmith Grove W6

2015/04623/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension at lower ground floor level.

62 Black Lion Lane W6

2015/05507/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension following the demolition of existing ground floor extension; associated internal and external alterations.

Rear Of 740 - 742 Fulham Road SW6

2015/05497/FUL

Demolition of 6no garages at the rear of 740 - 742 Fulham Road and redevelopment of the site to include erection of a two storey building comprising of 2no single family dwellinghouses; provision of bin stores and cycle parking; associated landscaping.

Adjacent To Standish House 1 St Peter's Grove W6

2015/04909/FUL

Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

South Side Of Du Cane Road (Approx 20M West Of Junction With Artillery Lane) London

2015/04908/FUL

Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

26 Ashchurch Park Villas W12

2015/05193/FUL

Erection of a part one part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor levels; excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement; and installation of 1no. rooflight in the rear roof slope.

Outside Kings Mall Car Park Glenthorne Road W6

2015/04901/FUL

Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

Outside 6 - 10 Farm Lane SW6

2015/04900/FUL

Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

Rear Of 1 - 15 King Street W6

2015/04902/FUL

Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

10 Bolingbroke Road W14

2015/05449/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of 1 x one bedroom self-contained flat; conversion of the first and second floor level into 2 x one bedroom self-contained flats; installation of new doors to replace the existing window, alterations to the roof of back addition including the replacement of existing railings with new glass balustrades around the flat roof at second floor level to the rear elevation, in connection with its use as a terrace.

Communication Station Brigade House 8 Parsons Green London

2015/05232/TEL56

Installation of 3no equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto at roof level.

60 Felden Street SW6

2015/05591/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension, over part of existing rear addition at second floor level.

94A Ormiston Grove W12

2015/05474/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition; formation of a terrace to the rear elevation at first floor level.

Chiswick Nursing Centre Ravenscourt Gardens W6

2015/05286/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

64 And 66 Hartswood Road W12

2015/05359/FUL

Erection of rear roof extensions including the formation of hip to gable roof extensions, following the removal of existing dormer windows from the side and rear roof slopes.

122 - 124 Hammersmith Road W6

2015/05367/FUL

Continued use of part of the pavement for the display of fruit and vegetables in connection with the retail premises.

Flat 6 438 Fulham Road SW6

2015/05383/FUL

Installation of uPVC French Doors and a Juliet balcony to replace the existing second floor window within the rear elevation.

26 Finlay Street SW6

2015/05560/FUL

Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2014/05077/FUL granted 15th December 2014 for the 'Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement.' Amendments to include alterations to the front and rear lightwells, alteration to the pitch roof of single storey rear extension to form a flat roof and alteration to the rooflight above the roof of single storey rear extension.

26 Finlay Street SW6

2015/05559/FUL

Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2014/05077/FUL granted 15th December 2014 for the 'Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement.' Amendments to include increasing the size of the basement and ground floor extension by 500mm at the rear of the property.

62 Black Lion Lane W6

2015/05611/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at ground and first floor level following the partial demolition of existing ground floor and first floor extension; associated internal and external alterations.

206A King Street W6

2015/05592/FUL

Conversion of first and second floor level into 2 x one bedroom self-contained flats; installation of French doors to replace the existing window, erection of glass balustrade and stainless steel handrail around the flat roof at first floor level to the rear elevation, in connection with its use as a terrace.

Flat C Second Floor 3 Perrymead Street SW6

2015/05595/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension following the removal of existing dormer window from the rear roof slope.

41 St Peter's Square W6

2015/05598/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension; installation of 1no rooflight over the main flat roof at roof level; installation of 2no Juliet balconies at upper ground floor level to the rear elevation; erection of new timber fencing along the boundary wall in between 41 and 42 St Peter's Square at the rear of the property; erection of new external steps in the rear garden; associated landscaping.

7 Winslow Road W6

2015/05425/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; erection of a rear extension at first floor level over the existing back addition; and erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition.

109 Claxton Grove W6

2015/05545/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in ridge height; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; and installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roof slope.

94 North End Road W14

2015/05463/ADV

Continued display of an internally illuminated ATM surround to the front elevation.

94 North End Road W14

2015/05462/FUL

Retention of an ATM machine to the front elevation.

154 Hammersmith Grove W6

2015/05469/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roof slope; formation of a roof terrace at third floor level to the rear elevation; conversion of the first, second and third floor level to provide 1 x one bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

62 Black Lion Lane W6

2015/05508/LBC

Erection of a single storey rear extension following the demolition of existing ground floor extension; internal alterations to include formation of a new utility area, wc, kitchen area, removal of existing non-original door and reinstatement of the original arch support and coving, covering of the existing non-original fire surround, shadow gap details to be used in new areas of the house, refurbishment of the original skirting in parts of the house, refurbishment of the original architraves, removal of shelving in fire place and replace with a period stove and reinstatement of the fire surround; associated internal alterations.

62 Black Lion Lane W6

2015/05612/LBC

Erection of rear extensions at ground and first floor level following the partial demolition of existing ground floor and first floor extension; internal alterations at first floor level to include formation of new partition walls and installation of new doors; internal alterations at ground floor level to include formation of a new utility area, wc, kitchen area, removal of existing non-original door and reinstatement of the original arch support and coving, covering of the existing non-original fire surround, shadow gap details to be used in new areas of the house, refurbishment of the original skirting in parts of the house, refurbishment of the original architraves, removal of shelving in fire place and replace with a period stove and reinstatement of the fire surround; associated internal alterations.

Access Self Storage 184 Shepherd's Bush Road W6

2015/05279/LBC

Alterations, refurbishment and general fit out of the internal layout of the listed building; involving amendments to the consented works, granted by planning permission/listed building consent, dated October 2013 (ref: 2013/00454/FUL and 2013/00455/LBC).

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

62 Black Lion Lane W6

2015/05507/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension following the demolition of existing ground floor extension; associated internal and external alterations.

Rear Of 1 - 15 King Street W6

2015/04902/FUL

Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

41 St Peter's Square W6

2015/05598/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension; installation of 1no rooflight over the main flat roof at roof level; installation of 2no Juliet balconies at upper ground floor level to the rear elevation; erection of new timber fencing along the boundary wall in between 41 and 42 St Peter's Square at the rear of the property; erection of new external steps in the rear garden; associated landscaping.

62 Black Lion Lane W6

2015/05611/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at ground and first floor level following the partial demolition of existing ground floor and first floor extension; associated internal and external alterations.

7 Winslow Road W6

2015/05425/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; erection of a rear extension at first floor level over the existing back addition; and erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 27th December 2015. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013

NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

The Wellington 56 Haldane Road SW6

2015/04816/FUL

I give notice that Manica Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Change of use of the basement and ground floor level from a public house (Class A4) into 1 x two bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats (Class C3); formation of a new front lightwell; replacement of 2no doors with windows at the front elevation; replacement of 2no doors and 4no windows with new windows and doors to the side elevation at ground floor level; formation of a refuse storage at the front of the property;

Land To The Side Of London House 100 New King's Road London

2015/04906/FUL

I give notice that Mr Frederico Fernandes is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated Electrical Vehicles only parking bays.

Side Of 92 Askew Road London

2015/04905/FUL

I give notice that Mr Frederico Fernandes is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated Electrical Vehicles only parking bays.

Outside Holiday Inn Express (Thaxton Road Frontage) 295 North End Road W14

2015/04911/FUL

I give notice that Mr Frederico Fernandes is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

1B Tasso Road And 120 - 126 Greyhound Road W6

2015/05525/FUL

I give notice that Designwell Properties Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of existing building of 1B Tasso Road comprising of first floor office and associated ground level parking, erection of a replacement part one, part two storey plus-basement building to provide 3 self-contained news houses (Class C3), including the formation of roof terraces at first floor level; change of use from community use at basement level of 120-126 Greyhound Road into residential use (Class C3) including the installation of new windows and doors; provision of cycle and refuse storages at ground floor level; landscaping and associated external alterations.

40 Radpole Road SW6

2015/05532/FUL

I give notice that Mr Guy Santanelli is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Conversion of property from two to three self-contained residential flats; erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a rear extension at third floor level on top of the existing back addition; erection of a part one part two storey rear extension at first and second floor levels on top of the existing back addition; excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony in the rear elevation of the proposed extension at third floor level; installation of French doors in the rear elevation of the proposed extension at first floor level, to provide access to the existing roof terrace;

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E-mail: Office@st-josephs-borough.southwark.sch.uk

Website: www.st-josephs-borough.southwark.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Sue Barber

SCHOOL OFFICE MANAGER

Salary Grade HAY 8 scp 27-34

36 hours per week x 40 weeks per year

Salary £26,523-£32,253 (pro rata £20,332.48-£24,725.09)

The governors are seeking to appoint a School Office Manager. The post is 36 hours per week term-time only + one week.

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The School Office Manager will be responsible for:

- ensuring the smooth and efficient running of our busy school office
- maintaining accurate computerised and paper databases of pupil and staff information (working knowledge of SIMS would be an advantage)
- areas of our finance and accounting systems
- general school administrative duties
- meeting Child Protection/Safeguarding responsibilities
- dealing with parents, visitors, governors and contractors
- upholding the School's Catholic Ethos

Please contact Sue Barber, the Headteacher for a discussion about the role or to arrange a visit:-

office@st-josephs-borough.southwark.sch.uk

Visits welcome.

Closing Date: 16th December 2015 at 1.00 pm.

Interviews will take place in January 2016

Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We conduct value based interviews. All school posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check. We welcome applications from all sections of the community, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity.

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Hasselbaink facing a baptism of fire

NEW Queens Park Rangers manager Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink faces a baptism of fire as he leads his team into action against two of the Championship's leading promotion contenders.

Fifth-placed Burnley visit Loftus Road on Saturday, before leaders Brighton & Hove Albion travel up to W12 next Tuesday.

Just 13 months after taking charge of lower league Burton Albion, Hasselbaink continues his rapid rise up The Football League ladder following his appointment last Friday.

Incredibly, he becomes QPR's 19th manager in 10 years (if you include caretakers – see table).

It's hardly surprisingly, then, that both parties seem to be exercising a degree of caution – the new man has signed a rolling contract, rather than a long-term deal.

David Oldfield, who was Hasselbaink's assistant at Burton, joins him in west London.

R's interim head coach Neil Warnock revealed the news after Nedom Onuoha sealed a 1-0 victory at Reading last Thursday night.

"Jimmy will find it

tough but there's no reason why he can't be successful," Warnock said.

Former Dutch international and Chelsea striker Hasselbaink cut his managerial teeth in Belgium with Royal Antwerp before landing the Burton job in November 2014.

Opportunity

The 43-year-old said: "It was not an easy decision to leave Burton but when you get the opportunity to come somewhere like QPR, with the club where it is and the squad we have at our disposal, it was something I couldn't turn down.

"I feel that this is a club on the up – it has an exciting feeling about it. And I want to keep that feeling going by taking more positive strides forward.

"I am happy to get the opportunity here at QPR, to lead the QPR family, be at the front of it all, put my stamp on things



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW
With Tony McDonald

and take the club forward.

"This is an incredibly proud moment for me and I will give my all to represent the badge of the club."

Director of football Les Ferdinand said: "We went through a very meticulous recruitment process that generated a lot of excellent candidates.

"We have been hugely impressed by his work at Burton. Having won League Two, he leaves them at the top of League One, which is an incredible achievement."

No-one can question Hasselbaink's admirable accomplishments in a short time at Burton but the hurly-burly of the Championship is a world away from the

two leagues below it. As such, his appointment represents another gamble by a club that has spun the managerial roulette wheel too many times in the past and lost.

Relish

From his point of view, it's a chance he should relish. Last week's victory at Reading – who sacked manager Steve Clarke, a recent Fulham target, after the game – leaves R's exactly halfway in the table.

But Hoops are only three points behind the top six and given the unpredictable, often volatile, nature of the second tier, that gap could be closed before the year is out if Hasselbaink can get Rangers playing.



■ **SKIPPER** Nedom Onuoha got the winner at Reading

QPR MANAGERS – THE PAST 10 YEARS

Manager	Start Date	End Date	Duration
Neil Warnock (c)	5 November 2015	3 December 2015	29d
Chris Ramsey	12 February 2015	4 November 2015	8m 24d
Harry Redknapp	24 November 2012	3 February 2015	2y 2m 10d
Mark Bowen (c)	23 November 2012	24 November 2012	1d
Mark Hughes	10 January 2012	23 November 2012	10m 13d
Neil Warnock	2 March 2010	8 January 2012	1y 10m 6d
Mick Harford (c)	15 January 2010	2 March 2010	1m 15d
Paul Hart	17 December 2009	15 January 2010	30d
Steve Gallen (c)	16 December 2009	17 December 2009	2d
Jim Magilton	3 June 2009	16 December 2009	6m 13d
Gareth Ainsworth (c)	9 April 2009	3 May 2009	25d
Paulo Sousa	19 November 2008	9 April 2009	4m 21d
Gareth Ainsworth (c)	24 October 2008	19 November 2008	26d
Iain Dowie	14 May 2008	24 October 2008	5m 11d
Luigi De Canio	29 October 2007	12 May 2008	6m 14d
Mick Harford (c)	1 October 2007	29 October 2007	29d
John Gregory	20 September 2006	1 October 2007	1y 12d
Gary Waddock (c)	6 February 2006	19 September 2006	7m 14d
Ian Holloway	26 February 2001	6 February 2006	4y 11m 12d

* Managers in **bold** served for more than one year. Those in *italics* were caretaker-managers (c)



■ **PLANNING** for 2016 ... Middlesex batsman Dawid Malan

Key county cricket dates

■ **YOU** know summer is just around the corner when the English domestic cricket fixtures are announced.

Before the Harrods Christmas hamper has been opened and with the Oxford Street lights still twinkling, supporters of our two local county sides, Middlesex and Surrey, can begin planning their 2016 itinerary.

The first London derby of the season will see newly-promoted Surrey host rivals Middlesex in the County Championship at the Kia Oval from Sunday, May 15 to Wednesday, May 18, with the return fixture at Lord's running from Thursday, August 5 to Sunday, August 7.

Middlesex will entertain Surrey at Lord's in the NatWest T20 Blast towards the end of the group phase, on Thursday July 21.

Following a three-day match against Oxford MCCU at the Parks, starting on Monday, April, 11, Middlesex will kick off their 2016 season with a home County Championship match against Warwickshire at Lord's, starting on Sunday, April 17.

In the NatWest T20 Blast, Middlesex open on Friday, May 27 with a home match against Hampshire at Uxbridge Sports Club. Lord's will host four Blast group matches, all on Thursday nights under floodlights, with the first taking place against Sussex on Thursday, June 16.

Their first 50-over Royal London One-Day Cup tie will be at home against Hampshire at Radlett CC on

Tuesday, June 7. The other three home fixtures will be played at Lord's.

Middlesex's final fixture of the 2016 season will be a County Championship match against defending champions Yorkshire at Lord's, starting on Tuesday, September 20.

■ **SURREY** will begin their 2016 campaign with a visit to Trent Bridge to play Nottinghamshire on Sunday, April 10.

Gareth Batty's men will end against Durham at the Emirates ICG, with a four-day match starting on Monday, September 12. Prior to the opening competitive fixture there will be a three-day match between Surrey and Loughborough MCCU at the Kia Oval from Thursday, March 31 to Saturday, April 2.

As a result of Surrey regaining Division One status, their only festival cricket next summer will be played at the Guildford Festival, where Warwickshire will provide the opposition from Saturday, July 2 until Tuesday, July 5. As in 2015, the two matches played at Woodbridge Road will be split, with Surrey's first visit to the ground being a London One-Day Cup match against Sussex on Tuesday, June 14.

For their opening T20 Blast fixture Surrey will travel to Chelmsford to play Essex on Friday, May 20, with the first big match at the Kia Oval coming against Glamorgan on Thursday, May 26.

Now for the good news...

■ **WHILE** Jose Mourinho continues to view youth with suspicion, Chelsea's under-18s continue their brilliant season. Now unbeaten in 10 games, they thrashed West Ham United 4-0 in the U18 Premier League.

Jacob Maddox, Miro Muehlm, Trevoh Chalobah and Ike Ugbo scored the goals that keep the young Blues four points clear at the top.

Manager Joe Edwards said: "I was really disappointed after the game away at West Ham earlier in the season. We were second to everything and did not show the character or desire that is needed in a Chelsea versus West Ham match.

"I think the boys have been looking forward to putting that right ever since. That's been evident in our preparations throughout the week and in the way we started the game."

■ **THE** all-conquering Chelsea Ladies side notched up a couple of awards at the FA Women's Football Awards ceremony last Friday.

Emma Hayes was crowned WSL Manager of the Year for 2015 after guiding her side to the FA Women's Cup and FA Women's Super League 1 double.

Great team spirit

"It's just been a cumulative effort," she said. "It's a likeable group and there's a great team spirit here. I'm just looking forward to a break now and then doing it all again next season."

The other award went to star striker Ji So-Yu, who scored the Goal of the Season in the 4-0 victory over Liverpool.

Paul Lagan

BETTINE BANTER

IN the last month bookies haven't had a clue where to turn next in assessing who will become the new manager of Fulham.

As LWN went to press, former Southampton boss Stuart Gray was the latest name being strongly linked with the vacancy in SW6. Stuart who?

Even though he was sacked by Whites' Championship rivals Sheffield Wednesday last June, out of work Gray had been cut to even money favourite to succeed Kit Symons with both Sky Bet and Bet Victor.

Up the road at Chelsea, only Swansea's Garry Monk has been keeping Jose Mourinho from leading the Next Premier League Manager To Leave market following Blues' latest dismal defeat at home to AFC Bournemouth. The Portuguese is as short as 7/2 to be shown the door for a second time by Roman Abramovich.

But at odds-on of 1/4, the likeable Monk looks nailed on to resume his alternative TV acting role as the vicar in *Broadchurch* before long (notice the uncanny likeness?).

Popular Carlo Ancelotti is the clear 7/2 favourite to take over from Mourinho, ahead of Atletico Madrid boss Diego Simeone (7/1). Ancelotti knows what it takes to manage Chelsea, whereas Simeone would be risky.

And having got rid of Diego Costa to Chelsea last year, why on earth would he want to put himself through hell again?

Keep the faith

Chelsea are now 14 points off a top four finish in the Premier League but William Hill continue to keep the faith. They're offering a best-priced 5/1 against Blues achieving what looks a near impossible task, although you can still get 6/1 generally on them grabbing

a Champions League spot.

History is stacked against them, though. No Premier League team has ever finished higher than eighth after having exactly 15 points from the first 15 games.

Not that I'd have expected anyone reading this to have snapped it up, but Bournemouth were a shade under 8/1 to win at Stamford Bridge last Saturday.

The bookies just won't accept that Chelsea have been reduced to the role of also-rans this season. Earlier this week, league leaders Leicester City were still a 2/1 shot to beat the Blues at home in next Monday's live televised game.

Neutrals everywhere will be hoping 'The Tinkerman' and his Foxes can continue to strike blows for football's underdogs.

Good luck – and always bet responsibly.

Tony McDonald

SPORT

Thursday, December 10th, 2015

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

Jose: 'Players must do better'

JUST when Jose Mourinho was thinking he had turned the corner on a desperate season, newly-promoted AFC Bournemouth came to Stamford Bridge and slapped him in the face with a three-points smash and grab raid that would make a bank robber proud.

The inability to score at least one goal from an incredible 44 crosses into the victors' penalty area spoke volumes of the team's lack of goal-scoring prowess.

But, in public at least, Mourinho is refusing to ask the board to sanction a raid in the January transfer market.

Andre Griezmann remains a priority, and while the Atletico Madrid hit man was earmarked as a £25million summer target, that timetable could be thrown out the window.

Mourinho savaged his strike force of Diego Costa and Loic Remy and when asked about on-loan striker

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Radamel Falcao, he visibly bristled with frustration.

Attempting to explain the inconsistency of the team in general and in individual terms, he said: "There are unlucky details, if you want to be honest, you will realise you are always unlucky in the details of the game."

Inconsistency

"There are big details, such as one penalty that is not given. And one goal that is offside that decides the game. We are always unlucky in these details. But a part of the inconsistency is to do with individual inconsistency. And with some players, you don't know when they are performing really well and when the performances are below level, it's difficult."

"When you get momentum and good, consecutive results, it's because you have stability in performances. This has a big relation with individual performances

and we had a couple against Bournemouth, where you need more and expect more from them. And they don't give enough."

"We have good strikers in Diego and Loic Remy. They have proved last season that they could score the goals that the team needs. I don't speak about Radamel Falcao, as he is injured. But the reality is that this season, they are not scoring enough goals for us."

Mourinho has written off Falcao's availability for next Monday night's tricky trip to surprise Premier League leaders Leicester City: "He is injured and I don't know how long he will be out. He won't be fit for next week, that's for sure," he said. "He is already five weeks injured. Add this week, that's six."

Speaking ahead of this week's final Champions League group game against Porto at The Bridge, Mourinho refuses to go cap in hand to ask Chelsea's football board to bring in any new players in the January transfer window.

"No, I feel that we don't have the right to ask the club for players. We started the season with this squad. We have to do better. The players have to do better."



● FRUSTRATED Jose Mourinho blames his players for not converting chances Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

This is more about the players doing better than for the club to go to the market.

"People must take responsibility. I think the club is all of us – we are all the club, the owner and the board. They are not responsible for the bad moment, that is mine and the players' responsibility."

Asked if he still had the board's confidence, his reply was a short and sweet "yes".

Mourinho had hoped that the open Premier League title race might have given his beleaguered side the scope to mount a charge for a top four spot – something he now dismisses. Blues had hoped to enter the chase for a Champions League slot but the manager is now reassessing their ability to finish in the top four.

"Before the game on Saturday, I was thinking we could finish in the top four – everybody was dropping points. Only Leicester City is being consistent in victories. They keep winning and winning. Every other team . . . the top ones too are dropping points. It's difficult to get consecutive victories."

"I was feeling that we could go into a period like that. And I am really disappointed with the result, not the performance. The performance in the second half, especially, was good."

"So I say, let's think about winning the next game and forget targets. Because to fix targets in this moment, with our inconsistency, is difficult."

On Saturday's 1-0 home defeat by Bournemouth, he said: "We had enough chances. More than chances, we had a lot of half-chances too. And we couldn't touch the ball, which is disappointing."

"All these crosses from the right side. Not long crosses, short crosses. Ivanovic, Pedro and Willian – with these crosses you have to touch the ball in the face of the goal, and not give any chance to the goalkeeper."

"The only time we had a contact with the ball (in the penalty area) was the (Nemanja) Matic one, where it was difficult for him, with the mask he was wearing. It was also difficult, as the cross was fast and it was difficult for him to react – to give direction to the ball."

"But the other ones, the crosses short and low crosses – nah, if you are in the box, you have to attack the ball and touch it, so these are big chances that do not go into the statistics of the game, because there is not a real shot on target. But these are real chances to score."

"In the first half against Bournemouth we were a bit passive and did not press enough. We were not intense enough with or without the ball to cause our opponents problems."

"In the second half, we did that. And in our best period, when everybody was waiting for us to score, they go there and score."

"We should have had a penalty when Simon Francis handled the ball and they were offside when they scored. But the referee made a mistake and the linesman made another mistake. That's football."



Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Floundering Fulham on slide

FLOUNDERING, rudderless Fulham are in urgent need of the kind of instant boost only a new manager can provide if they are to halt their slide down the table.

In their three league games since manager Kit Symons was fired on November 8, Whites managed 1-1 draws at lowly Milton Keynes Dons and at home to Preston North End and have now been thumped 3-0 at Nottingham Forest. All three opponents are in the bottom half of the Championship table.

Fulham are there, too, having dropped to 16th, just six points clear of the relegation zone, and without a win in their last five.

Under Symons, even when they lost they usually entertained in games overflowing with chances and goals. But now they are losing or drawing and struggling to score, managing only five in the last five matches, while conceding 14 from the same run of winless fixtures.

With no sign of a permanent replacement for Symons being unveiled as LWN went to press, the last thing a managerless club needs is a visit from its in-form local rivals.

Brentford will arrive at Craven Cottage on

Saturday off the back of a run that has seen them lose just one of their last nine league games.

Of course, caretaker head coach Peter Grant tried to put a positive spin on defeat at the City Ground, where Forest central defender Matt Mills headed goals from corners either side of a strike from Chris O'Grady.

Can't defend set-plays

"The way we played we were excellent for big periods of the game," said Grant. "But it's the old Achilles' heel – if you can't defend a set-play, then you're going to have trouble in this division, because this division's built on set-plays."

The loss could have been heavier but the crossbar denied Mills a hat-trick of headers in time added on. At the other end, Ross McCormack and recalled centre-forward Matt Smith had good chances denied by Forest keeper Dorus de Vries.

Grant went on: "I thought today, apart from the set-plays, we defended ever so well, we created chances and moved the ball as well as

anybody I've seen in this division – and I've seen a lot of games in this division this season."

"Our two central midfield players (Scott Parker and Jamie O'Hara) dominated the game. We had to take Scotty off with a slight tightness in his legs just because of a lack of games."

However, many Fulham fans don't share Grant's estimation of Parker's worth. At 35, the former England and Chelsea player is clearly way beyond his sell-by date, his ageing legs are creaking and his contribution to the goals tally is negligible.

Then again, there are much younger players than Parker in the Fulham first team who are falling way short of the required standard, too. There's nothing like instability off the pitch to damage morale in the dressing room.

Grant added: "I've been chuffed to be part of it but I do hope this is my last game. I know that Mike (Rigg) and the chairman are working diligently to bring someone in."

Four weeks – and counting – without a manager is too long. And with every passing lack-lustre performance the new incumbent's task will become even harder as the pressure to get results mounts.

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS &

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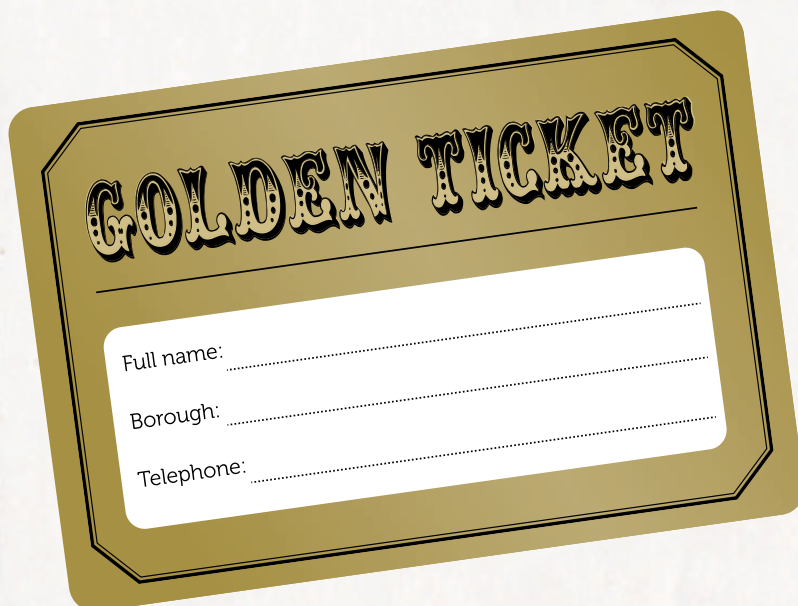
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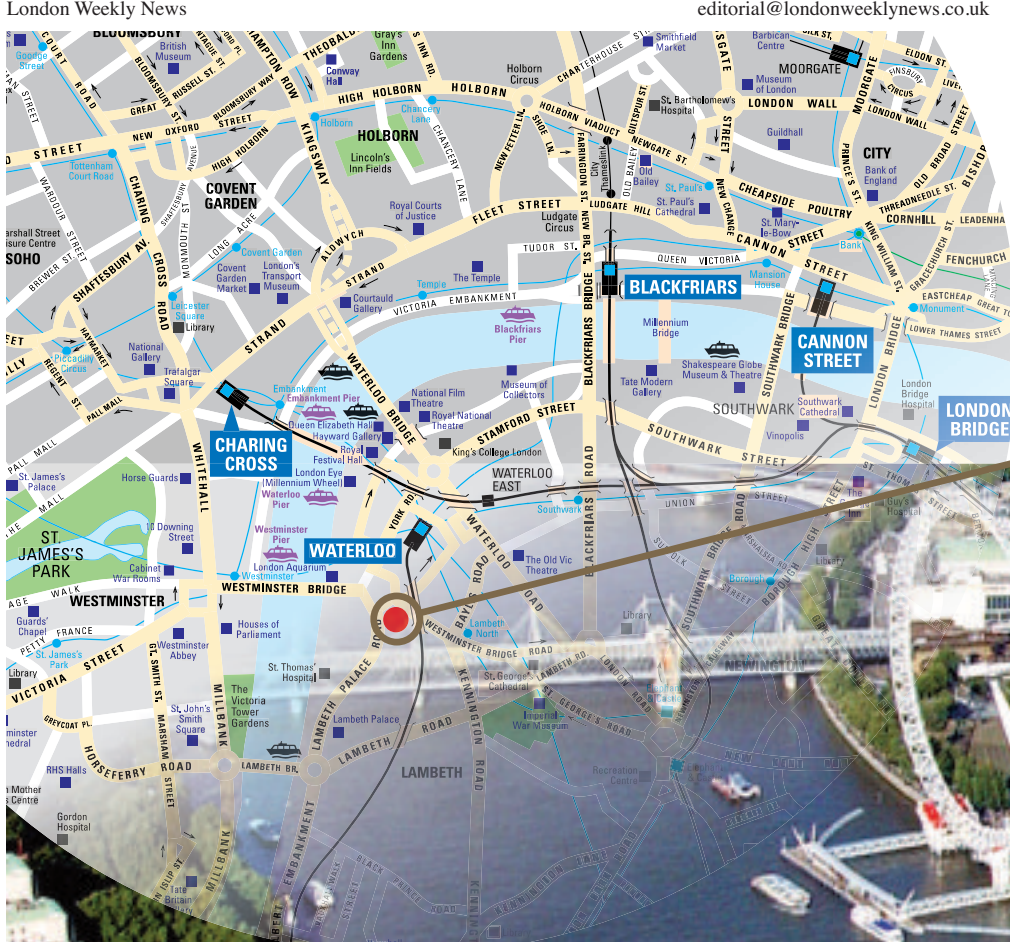
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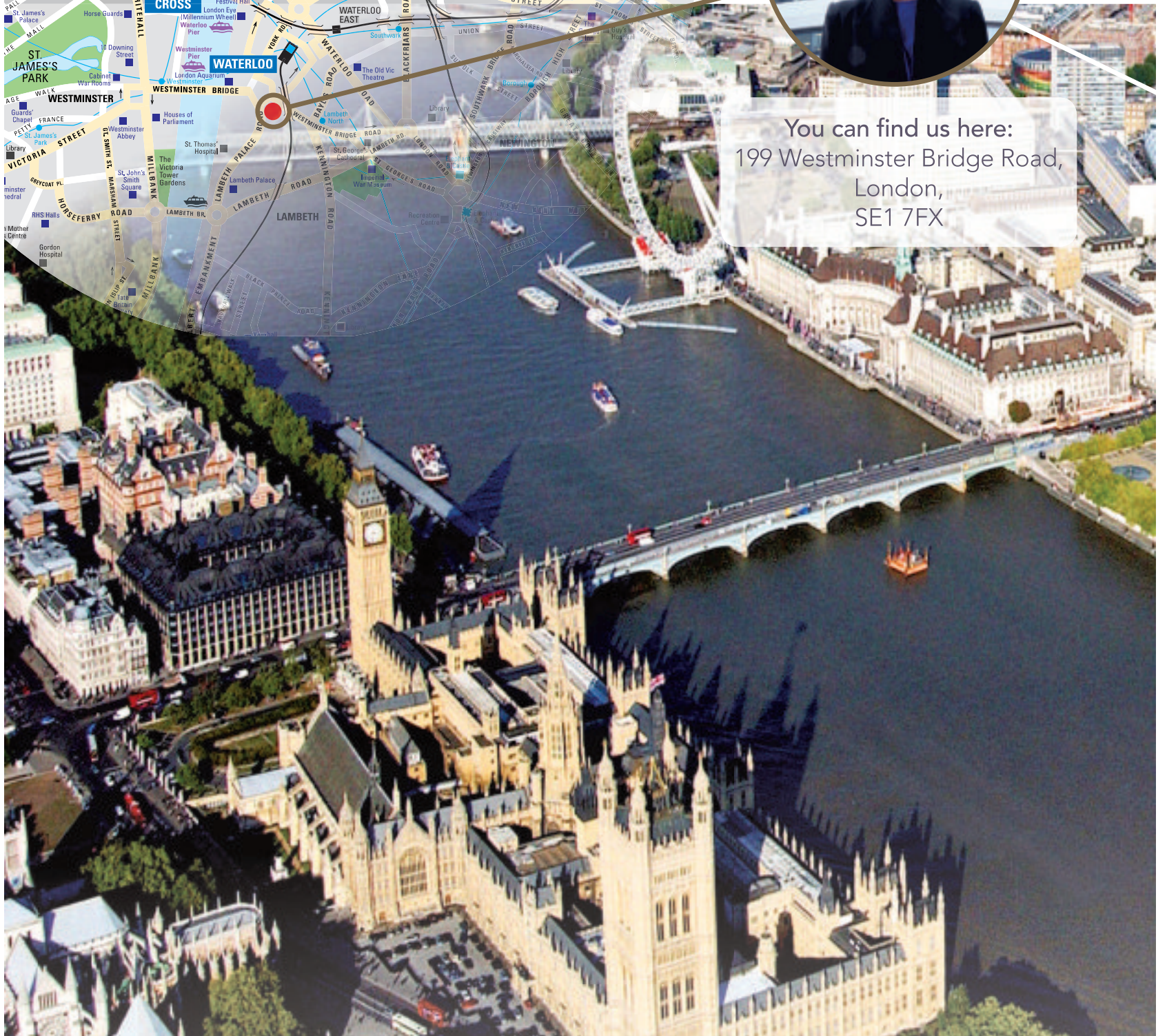
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T +44 (0)20 7935 8411
E dld@dld.org
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